

What to Expect after Getting a COVID-19 Vaccine

Accessible version: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/expect/after.html>

COVID-19 vaccination will help protect you from getting COVID-19. You may have some side effects, which are normal signs that your body is building protection. These side effects **may feel like flu** and **may even affect your ability** to do daily activities, but they should go away in a few days.

Common side effects

On the arm where you got the shot:

- Pain
- Swelling

Throughout the rest of your body:

- Fever
- Chills
- Tiredness
- Headache

Helpful tips

If you have pain or discomfort, talk to your doctor about taking an over-the-counter medicine, such as ibuprofen or acetaminophen.

To reduce pain and discomfort where you got the shot:

- Apply a clean, cool, wet washcloth over the area.
- Use or exercise your arm.

To reduce discomfort from fever:

- Drink plenty of fluids.
- Dress lightly.

When to call the doctor

In most cases, discomfort from fever or pain is normal. Contact your doctor or healthcare provider:

- If the redness or tenderness where you got the shot increases after 24 hours
- If your side effects are worrying you or do not seem to be going away after a few days

Remember

- Side effects may feel like flu and even affect your ability to do daily activities, but they should go away in a few days.
- With most COVID-19 vaccines, you will need 2 shots in order for them to work. Get the second shot even if you have side effects after the first one, unless a vaccination provider or your doctor tells you not to get a second shot.
- It takes time for your body to build protection after any vaccination. COVID-19 vaccines that require 2 shots may not protect you until a week or two after your second shot.
- It's important for everyone to continue using all the tools available to help stop this pandemic as we learn more about how COVID-19 vaccines work in real-world conditions. Cover your mouth and nose with a mask when around others, stay at least 6 feet away from others, avoid crowds, and wash your hands often.

Vaccine Safety Hotline: 1-877-603-0170



You have received an immunization today to prevent Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) caused by SARS-CoV-2. It is expected that some people may experience minor side effects from the vaccination. Side effects may include injection side reactions (pain, tenderness and swelling), fatigue, headache, muscle pain, joint pain, chills, nausea and vomiting, and fever. These may not be all the possible side effects of the COVID-19 Vaccine. Serious and unexpected side effects may occur. If you experience a severe allergic reaction (difficulty breathing, swelling of face/throat), call 9-1-1, or go to the nearest hospital.

Please review the Emergency Use Authorization Fact Sheet (EUA) that you received for more information.

If you have concerns or need advice about side effects or believe you are having an adverse reaction, please call the Vaccine Safety Hotline at 1-877-603-0170. It is available 24/7 to answer your questions and provide advice.



Ask your healthcare provider about getting started with v-safe

Use your smartphone to tell CDC about any side effects after getting the COVID-19 vaccine. You'll also get reminders if you need a second dose

Learn more about **v-safe**.

www.cdc.gov/vsafe



cdc.gov/coronavirus