Next Steps: After you receive the COVID-19 vaccine

Make a plan to get your second dose of the vaccine.
Before you leave the vaccine location, make sure you know when and where to come back for your second dose, and put a reminder in your calendar! Most COVID-19 vaccines will require two doses to be effective. This is so your body can build a strong immune response to offer the best protection.

Know the common side effects.
You may experience side effects. This is normal and can be a sign that the vaccine is starting to work.

- Pain or swelling on your arm where you got the vaccine
- Fever
- Chills
- Tiredness
- Headache

Reduce discomfort where you got the vaccine by placing a clean, wet washcloth over the area. Drink plenty of fluids, rest, and dress lightly if you develop a fever.

Even if you experience side effects from the first dose, you need to get your second dose.

Know when to call a health care provider.
Discomfort from fever or pain is normal. However, contact a health care provider if:

- Redness or tenderness increases after 24 hours.
- If your side effects worry you or if they last longer than a few days.

If you are having a medical emergency, call 911.

Sign up for v-safe℠
Get the new smartphone-based tool for personalized health check-ins, easy reporting of side effects, and a reminder to get your second dose! Follow instructions on the v-safe℠ handout your health care provider gave you.

Find a safe place to keep your COVID-19 vaccination card.
Your vaccination card has information on when and where you received your vaccine as well as other helpful information related to the COVID-19 vaccine. Keep your card in a safe place! You may also visit the Wisconsin Immunization Registry for an electronic version.
Continue to protect yourself and others

Vaccines are just one tool we have to stop the spread of COVID-19. Stopping the spread requires all the tools available. Together, vaccination and good public health behaviors will offer the best protection from COVID-19.

Get Tested  Wear a Mask  Stay 6 Feet Apart  Wash Your Hands

You are considered fully vaccinated against COVID-19 two weeks after your second dose of the Pfizer or Moderna COVID-19 vaccines or two weeks after a single dose of Johnson & Johnson COVID-19 vaccine. Until you are fully vaccinated, it is especially important to continue good public health practices such as:

- Staying home as much as possible.
- Staying at least 6 feet from others.
- Wearing a face mask when around others.
- Get tested if you have symptoms of COVID-19 or if you’ve had close contact with someone with COVID-19.
- Cleaning all high-touch surfaces every day.
- Covering your mouth and nose when you cough or sneeze.
- Avoid spending time with people who are sick.
- Washing your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds or using hand sanitizer with 60% alcohol.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth if you haven’t washed your hands.

When you have been fully vaccinated, and were in close contact with someone with COVID-19, you do not need to quarantine. However, you should get tested 3–5 days after exposure and continue to wear a mask until you receive a negative COVID-19 test result.

When you have been fully vaccinated, you can feel safer engaging in social situations in outdoor settings or indoor setting in areas or low or moderate community transmission, without wearing a mask. There are some situations where everyone, even fully vaccinated people, should wear masks. Visit www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/covid-19/vaccine-after.htm for more information.

Remember

- With the Pfizer and Moderna COVID-19 vaccines, you will need 2 doses for the vaccine to be most effective and offer the best protection.
- Mark your calendar so you know when to go back to get your second vaccine.
- You may experience common side effects. This is a normal part of getting vaccinated.