Next Steps: After you receive a COVID-19 vaccine

Plan to get your next dose and stay up to date with your COVID-19 vaccines.

- Ask your vaccine provider when you should get your next dose of COVID-19 vaccine.
- Pfizer, Moderna, and Novavax COVID-19 vaccines require two or three doses for the primary series depending on your age.
- People who are moderately to severely immunocompromised may need additional doses to build protection. Learn more at [www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/covid-19/vaccine-immuno.htm](http://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/covid-19/vaccine-immuno.htm)
- Depending on your age and which vaccine you received for your primary series, one or more booster doses may be recommended for increased protection and to stay up to date with COVID-19 vaccines. Learn more about booster doses and staying up to date on page 2 or visit [www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/covid-19/vaccine-booster.htm](http://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/covid-19/vaccine-booster.htm)

Know the common side effects.

Side effects are common, temporary 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

Know when to call a doctor.

Discomfort from fever or pain is normal, but contact a doctor if:

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

If you are having a medical emergency, dial 911.

Sign up for v-safe℠.

Get the smartphone-based tool for personalized health check-ins, easy reporting of side effects, and reminders to get your next dose. Go to [vsafe.cdc.gov](http://vsafe.cdc.gov) to sign up.

Save your COVID-19 vaccination card.

Your vaccination card has information on when and where you received your vaccine. Keep your card in a safe place and bring it with you to your next COVID-19 vaccine appointment. You can also get an electronic version of your vaccine record by following the steps on [www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/covid-19/vaccine-record.htm](http://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/covid-19/vaccine-record.htm)
Stay up to date on COVID-19 vaccines

Everyone 6 months and older should receive a primary series of COVID-19 vaccine. Similar to other vaccines, immunity from COVID-19 vaccinations naturally starts to decrease over time. A booster dose is recommended for most people 5 years and older for the best protection. Vaccine dosages are based on your age on the day of vaccination and not your size or weight.

For most people 5 years and older

- If you received a Pfizer vaccine, get a booster dose at least 5 months after your second dose.
- If you received a Moderna vaccine and you are 18 years or older, get a booster dose at least 5 months after your second dose.
- If you received a Johnson & Johnson vaccine, get a booster dose at least 2 months after your Johnson & Johnson vaccine. A Pfizer or Moderna booster dose is preferred in most situations. If you received two Johnson & Johnson doses, you may get a second booster 4 months later.

Additionally, for people 50 years and older

- If you received Pfizer, Moderna, or Johnson & Johnson vaccine for your primary series, get a second mRNA (Pfizer or Moderna) booster dose at least 4 months after your first booster dose.

For people who have a weakened immune system

If you are moderately to severely immunocompromised (for example, due to cancer treatment, HIV infection, or a medical condition like DiGeorge syndrome), you may need additional protection.

- Everyone 6 months and older who is moderately to severely immunocompromised is recommended to get 3 primary series doses of Pfizer or Moderna COVID-19 vaccine.
- Children 6 months–4 years old who got Pfizer are not authorized yet for a booster dose after their first 3 primary doses. If you are 5 years or older and got a Pfizer vaccine, you need a booster dose at least 3 months after your third dose – for a total of 4 doses. If you are 12 years or older, you also need a second booster at least 4 months later – for a total of 5 doses.
- Children 6 months–17 years old who got Moderna are not authorized yet for a booster dose after their first 3 primary doses. If you are 18 years or older, you also need a booster dose at least 3 months later and a second booster dose at least 4 months later – for a total of 5 doses.
- If you got a Johnson & Johnson vaccine, you need a second dose of Pfizer or Moderna 4 weeks after your first dose, a booster dose 2 months later, and a second mRNA (Pfizer or Moderna) booster dose 4 months later – for a total of 4 doses.

For more information on staying up to date visit [www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/covid-19/vaccine-booster.htm](http://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/covid-19/vaccine-booster.htm)

Continue to protect yourself and others

It is important to continue good public health practices, even if you are up to date with your COVID-19 vaccines. Together, vaccination and good public health behaviors will give you the best protection against COVID-19.

- Stay home when you are sick.
- Pack a well-fitting mask when you leave your home.
- Get tested if you have symptoms of COVID-19 or if you’ve been exposed to someone with COVID-19.