Next Steps: After you receive the COVID-19 vaccine

Plan to get your second dose of the vaccine 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.
- If you got a vaccine that requires two doses (like Pfizer or Moderna), you will need to return for your second dose.
- If you are moderately to severely immunocompromised, get an additional dose and a booster dose for the best protection. In most situations, Pfizer or Moderna COVID-19 vaccines are preferred over the Johnson & Johnson vaccine.
- Everyone age 12 and older should get a booster dose of Pfizer (12 years and up), Moderna (18 years and up), or Johnson & Johnson (18 years and up) 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-after.htm

Know the common side effects.
Side effects are common 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 health care provider.
Discomfort from fever or pain is normal, but contact a health care provider 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, call 911.

Sign up for v-safeSM.
Get the smartphone-based tool for personalized health check-ins, easy reporting of side effects, and reminders to get your second dose! Go to 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. It also has helpful information related to the COVID-19 vaccine, so keep your card in a safe place! Visit the Wisconsin Immunization Registry (www.dhfswir.org/PR/clientSearch.do) for an electronic version of your vaccination record.
Stay up to date on COVID-19 vaccines

Everyone 5 years and older should get fully vaccinated with a primary series of COVID-19 vaccine. Similar to other vaccines, immunity from COVID-19 vaccinations naturally starts to decrease over time. Everyone 12 years and older needs a **booster dose** for the best protection and to stay up to date.

**For everyone 5 years and older**

Pfizer or Moderna COVID-19 vaccines

1st dose + 2nd dose + 3rd dose = Fully vaccinated with primary series

If you have a weakened immune system

Johnson & Johnson COVID-19 vaccine

1st dose + 2nd dose = Fully vaccinated with primary series

**For everyone 12 years and older**

+ Booster dose = Up to date on COVID-19 vaccines

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**For most people**

> If you received a **Pfizer or Moderna** vaccine, get a booster dose **5 months** after your second dose.

> If you received a **Johnson & Johnson** vaccine, get a booster dose **2 months** after your Johnson & Johnson vaccine. A Pfizer or Moderna booster dose is preferred in most situations.

**For people who have a weakened immune system**

If you are moderately to severely immunocompromised (for example, due to cancer treatment, HIV infection, medical treatments, or a medical condition like DiGeorge syndrome), you may need additional protection. For more information visit [www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/covid-19/vaccine-after.htm](http://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/covid-19/vaccine-after.htm)

> If you got a **Pfizer or Moderna** vaccine, you need a third dose 28 days after your second dose and (if you’re 12 years or older) a booster dose 3 months after your third dose – for a **total of 4 doses**.

> If you got a **Johnson & Johnson** vaccine, you need a second (additional) dose of Pfizer or Moderna 28 days after your first dose and a booster dose 2 months later – for a **total of 3 doses**.

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**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.

**Remember**

- For the best protection, everyone 12 years and older should get a booster dose at the recommended time. People who are immunocompromised should get an additional dose and a booster dose.

- Mark your calendar so you know when to go back to get your second dose and booster dose.