

# COVID-19 Vaccines: Your best shot against COVID-19.



NC DEPARTMENT OF  
HEALTH AND  
HUMAN SERVICES

Tested, safe and effective COVID-19 vaccines will help us defeat the virus, get back in control of our lives and back to the people and places we love.

## **Scientists had a head start.**

The vaccines were built upon years of work in developing vaccines for similar viruses.

## **Tested, safe and effective.**

More than 70,000 people volunteered in clinical trials for two vaccines (Pfizer and Moderna) to see if they are safe and work to prevent COVID illness. To date, the vaccines are 95% effective in preventing COVID-19 with no serious safety concerns noted in the clinical trials. The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) makes sure the vaccines are safe and can prevent people from getting COVID-19. Like all drugs, vaccine safety continues to be monitored after they are in use.

## **You cannot get COVID-19 from the vaccine.**

You may have temporary reactions like a sore arm, being tired or feeling off for a day or two after receiving the vaccine.

## **You Have a Spot to Take Your Shot.**

A vaccine will be available to all who want it, but supplies will be limited at first. Independent state and federal public health advisory groups have determined that the best way to fight COVID-19 is to start first with vaccinations for those most at-risk, then reach more people as the vaccine supply increases throughout 2021. Rest assured: you have a spot to take your shot.

## **Finding Your Spot.**

Vaccines will be available first in hospitals, local health departments and long-term care facilities, and then in a variety of settings like clinics, pharmacies and vaccination events in prioritized settings and in the community. You can find out where you can take your shot at <https://covid19.ncdhhs.gov/vaccines>.

## **Take your shot at no cost.**

The COVID-19 vaccine will be available to everyone for free, whether or not you have health insurance.

## **You'll need two shots to build up your immunity.**

After a person gets a first dose, they will need to come back 3 to 4 weeks later for a second dose. You will get a printed card and email reminder of when to get your second dose.

## **Continue to practice the 3Ws until everyone has their shot at fighting COVID.**

Wear a mask. Wait six feet apart. Wash your hands. That's the best way to protect each other until everyone gets their shot.



For more information:  
[covid19.ncdhhs.gov/vaccines](https://covid19.ncdhhs.gov/vaccines)

# Vaccine availability: Find your phase.

1a

## Health care workers fighting COVID-19 & Long-Term Care

Health care workers at high risk for exposure to COVID-19—doctors, nurses and all who interact and care for patients with COVID-19, including those who clean areas used by patients, and those giving vaccines to these workers.

Long-Term Care staff and residents—people in skilled nursing facilities and in adult, family and group homes.

1b

## Adults at highest risk of severe illness and those at highest risk for exposure

Adults with two or more chronic conditions that put them at risk of severe illness as defined by the CDC, including conditions like cancer, COPD, serious heart conditions, sickle cell disease and Type 2 diabetes, among others.

Adults at high risk of exposure including essential frontline workers (police, food processing, teachers), health care workers, and those living in prisons, homeless shelters, migrant and fishery housing with 2+ chronic conditions.

Those working in prisons, jails and homeless shelters (no chronic conditions requirement).

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## Adults at high risk for exposure and at increased risk of severe illness

Essential frontline workers, health care workers and those living in prisons, homeless shelters or migrant and fishery housing.

Adults 65+

Adults under 65 with one chronic condition that puts them at risk of severe illness as defined by the CDC.

3

## Students and critical industry workers

College and university students.

K-12 students when there is an approved vaccine for children.

Those employed in jobs that are critical to society and at lower risk of exposure.

4

## Everyone who wants a safe and effective COVID-19 vaccination

For more information: [covid19.ncdhhs.gov/vaccines](https://covid19.ncdhhs.gov/vaccines)



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