

# COVID-19 Vaccine Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

Last updated: January 20, 2021



**Lorain County  
Public Health**

For the Health of Us All

[See the Spanish version / Veá la versión en español.](#)

## **When and where can I get a COVID-19 vaccine?**

It depends. Since it will take time to manufacture enough vaccines for all Ohio, [the state has a plan](#) to distribute the COVID-19 vaccine in phases. First, [essential healthcare workers and those most at risk](#) will get to receive the vaccine.

If you're within [phase 1A](#), ask your employer if they have a plan for vaccination since some facilities are enrolled in a federal pharmacy program. If your employer does not have a program, LCPH may be able to vaccinate you. Those who fall into phase 1A may [sign up to get notified](#) about closed COVID-19 vaccine clinics for phase 1A individuals.

People in phase 1B may request a vaccine from [a local vaccine provider](#) or may come to an LCPH clinic. LCPH will list clinics on [LorainCountyHealth.com/coronavirus](#) when dates and times get finalized, as well as in local news sources, such as radio stations, newspapers, and television. To get notified about clinics via email, visit [LorainCountyHealth.com/signup](#).

Phase 1B individuals include:

- Adults 65 years and older
- People living with severe congenital, developmental, or early-onset medical disorders
- Adults who work in schools

## **Why can't I get the vaccine right away?**

Due to limited supplies at first, the vaccine will be distributed in phases. Those at highest risk of contracting COVID-19 or having severe complications or death from COVID-19 are being prioritized first. Everyone who wants a vaccine will eventually get one. [Find more information about Ohio's COVID-19 vaccine program.](#)

## **Can kids get the vaccine?**

No. The minimum age for the Pfizer vaccine is 16 years old, and the Moderna vaccine is 18 years old.

## **How much will the COVID-19 vaccines cost? If so, will my insurance pay?**

The federal and state governments as well as LCPH are all committed to providing COVID-19 vaccines at no or low cost.

## **How many doses of the COVID-19 vaccine do I need to get?**

- Two doses of the vaccine are needed to get the best protection against COVID-19.
- After the first dose, it will take a few weeks to develop an immune response, and it may not be very strong. After the second dose, your immune response will be stronger.
- When you get your first vaccine, the distributor will make sure you know how to get your second dose.
- It's important that you get both doses from the same manufacturer.

## **When should I get the second dose?**

If you got the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine, you should get the second dose of the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine 21 days later ([CDC](#)).

If you got the Moderna COVID-19 vaccine, you should get the second dose of the Moderna COVID-19 vaccine 28 days later ([CDC](#)).

### **Are there side effects?**

Common side effects after receiving the vaccine are pain at the injection site, some fatigue, body aches, and chills. This is typical of many vaccinations. It's a way to know that your body is developing an immune response.

In Lorain County, most people who have been vaccinated for COVID-19 felt a sore arm for a few days. Some people felt normal. Some people had chills and an achy body for about 18 hours. A couple people felt uneasy right after getting the vaccine, which is why EMS partners are at LCPH clinics just in case someone needs their help.

- No one has been transported to the hospital.
- Every person vaccinated has felt comfortable and safe to leave the clinic on their own.
- We ask every person to stay for 15 minutes after getting vaccinated – we have a seating area at the walk in clinics and a parking lot for the drive thru clinics.

### **Am I required to get the COVID-19 vaccines?**

The state of Ohio will not require that all Ohioans get the COVID-19 vaccine. Individual employers may require their employees to get the vaccine.

### **Are the vaccines safe if they are developed so quickly?**

Yes, the vaccines are safe. Some reasons these vaccines got developed more quickly than others include:

- The vaccines got a lot of funding so there were no funding delays.
- Researchers have been working on this kind of vaccine (mRNA delivery system) for decades.
- The recent surge in cases meant that people in the vaccine trials did not have to wait long to get potentially infected.
- The virus that causes COVID-19 is a type of coronavirus. The coronaviruses are a large family of viruses. Researchers have been working on vaccines for the coronaviruses for years ([Dr. Chapple](#)).

### **What are the long term effects of getting the vaccine?**

Vaccines are only in your body for a short period of time. It's not like chronic medicines or environmental factors that can build up over time. Vaccines show up, do their job to stimulate an immune response then your own body's immune system takes over from there.

### **Can the mRNA (messenger RNA) in the vaccines change my DNA?**

No. This technology has been in development for 20 years. Messenger RNA does not interact with DNA at all. Also, it can't cause COVID-19, as it is not a live virus. It is a signal to your cells to develop an immune response.

### **Can I get COVID-19 from the vaccines?**

No. The vaccines do not contain live viruses, so you cannot get COVID-19 from the vaccine.

### **What are the ingredients in the vaccines?**

The Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine ingredient list can be found [here](#) and the scientific trials indicate no safety concerns.

The Moderna COVID-19 vaccine ingredient list can be found [here](#) and the scientific trials indicate no safety concerns.

The vaccines do NOT include any microchips, aluminum, fetal tissue, or ingredients that cause sterility.

### **If I already got COVID-19, do I need to get the vaccines?**

Yes. The only people who are explicitly recommended against getting the vaccine are people with severe allergies to the vaccine ingredients. Depending on the severity of your infection, it's possible you didn't mount a sufficient immune response to protect you from COVID-19 if you are exposed again.

### **Do I need to wait to get the vaccine if I had COVID-19?**

There is not a requirement to wait to get the vaccine after having COVID-19. But, you should not be actively sick or symptomatic at time of vaccination.

### **Will I still have to wear a mask and distance if I get a vaccine?**

Yes, while the vaccines are being distributed, it's important for everyone to continue all of the precautions available to us to help stop this pandemic, like covering your mouth and nose with a mask, washing hands often, and staying at least 6 feet away from others.

### **If my partner or I get the vaccine, will we be able to get pregnant?**

There's no evidence that the new vaccines against COVID-19 cause infertility. No serious safety concerns have been observed for the COVID-19 vaccines that have received emergency use authorization in the U.S. In the Pfizer BioNTech phase 3 clinical trial of more than 43,000 individuals, and the Moderna Phase 3 clinical trial with 30,000 participants, no serious safety concerns were observed.

The most common side effects were fatigue, headache, soreness or redness at the injection site, and muscle or joint pain. Side effects like these, while unpleasant, are a sign that your body is responding properly to create immunity from the virus that causes COVID-19.

### **When can we all return to normal?**

Once the people that are at high risk are vaccinated in January through April 2021 and the general population is vaccinated from April to June 2021, we will not need to do all of the precautions that we've been doing since March 2020.

### **Where can people get more information?**

Call Lorain County Public Health at 440-322-6367, or visit us at [LorainCountyHealth.com](https://www.loraincountyhealth.com).

### **COVID-19 info from Lorain County Public Health:**

- General COVID-19 information: [LorainCountyHealth.com/coronavirus](https://www.loraincountyhealth.com/coronavirus)
- Local COVID-19 data: [LorainCountyHealth.com/data](https://www.loraincountyhealth.com/data)
- Downloadable signs and resources: [LorainCountyHealth.com/covid19resources](https://www.loraincountyhealth.com/covid19resources)
- School FAQs:  
[docs.google.com/document/d/1xOcSt5P8xP4NEKr38zAK4IJMmUtuJZnINk2ppLoZvy0/edit?usp=sharing](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1xOcSt5P8xP4NEKr38zAK4IJMmUtuJZnINk2ppLoZvy0/edit?usp=sharing)
- I got tested, now what? 2 pages: [PDF](#), [PNG](#)
- I've been quarantined, now what? 2 pages: [PDF](#), [PNG](#)
- Videos for parents and schools: [youtube.com/playlist?list=PLbVFtIAwx9FmD3wBNSpCr-2\\_M-ljBpbdk](https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLbVFtIAwx9FmD3wBNSpCr-2_M-ljBpbdk)
- List of local vaccine providers: <https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1AwBpuqaZqQfI8-Xu8gttJZbqRBS-39Ko7UoYFI-vBGg/edit#gid=0>