

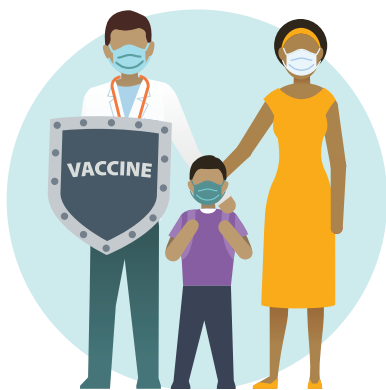
COVID-19 Vaccination

Vaccines (shots) are one of the tools we have to fight the COVID-19 pandemic.



To stop this pandemic, we need to use all of our prevention tools. Vaccines are one of the most effective tools to protect your health and prevent disease. Vaccines work with your body's natural defenses so **your body will be ready to fight the virus**, if you are exposed (also called immunity). Other steps, like wearing a mask that covers your nose and mouth and staying at least 6 feet away from other people you don't live with, also help stop the spread of COVID-19.

Studies show that COVID-19 **vaccines are very effective** at keeping you from getting COVID-19. Experts also think that getting a COVID-19 vaccine may help keep you from getting seriously ill even if you do get COVID-19. These vaccines cannot give you the disease itself.



The vaccines have been approved by WHO and/or the country vaccine registration systems and their safety is closely monitored by relevant country authorities.



Different types of COVID-19 vaccines will be available. Most of these vaccines are given in two doses, one at a time and spaced apart. The first shot gets your body ready. The second shot is given several weeks later to make sure you have full protection. If you are told you need two doses, make sure that you get both of them. The vaccines may work in slightly different ways, but all types of the vaccines will help protect you.



The vaccines may cause side effects in some people, like sore muscles, feeling tired, or mild fever. These reactions mean the vaccine is working to help teach your body how to fight COVID-19 if you are exposed. For most people, these side effects will last not longer than a day or two.

Having these types of side effects does NOT mean that you have COVID-19. If you have questions about your health after your shot or need medical attention, get in contact with your health clinic and inform IOM.



When you get the vaccine, you *and* your healthcare worker will both need to wear masks.

WHO and CDC recommend that during the pandemic, people wear a mask that covers their nose and mouth when in contact with others outside their household, when in healthcare facilities, and when receiving any vaccine, including a COVID-19 vaccine.



Even after you get your vaccine, you will need to keep wearing a mask that covers your nose **and** mouth, washing your hands often, and staying at least 6 feet away from other people you do not live with. This gives you and others the best protection from catching the virus. Right now, experts don't know how long the vaccine will protect you, so it's a good idea to continue following the guidelines from WHO, CDC and your health authorities. **We also know not everyone will be able to get vaccinated right away, so it's still important to protect yourself and others.**