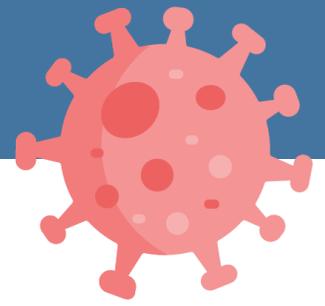




FACT SHEET



WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW AFTER YOU GET THE COVID-19 VACCINE

This fact sheet was updated on Dec. 21, 2021. It is based on information that was available at that time. This information might change in the future.

COVID-19 is an illness caused by a new coronavirus. You can get very sick from **COVID-19**. It can make it hard for you to breathe.



New types of COVID-19 emerge over time. Each type is called a **variant**. The Delta variant is easier to catch and can make you sicker than previous variants. The Omicron variant is also easier to catch.

There are **vaccines** to help your body fight COVID-19. A vaccine is a shot in the arm. This fact sheet will help you understand how to get the COVID-19 vaccine.

You might not feel well for a few days after getting the COVID-19 vaccine. You might feel tired, have sore muscles, or have a mild fever. This is good. It means that the COVID-19 vaccine is working.



You can report how you are feeling through an application called v-safe. Learn more about v-safe on [this website](#). Call your doctor if you have questions.



Some people may have severe side effects after getting the COVID-19 vaccine. An example is having trouble breathing. This is very rare. If this happens, tell somebody and call 911 or go to the emergency room.

Some COVID-19 vaccines require you to get a second dose. The timing of the second dose depends on which vaccine you got. The second dose makes the COVID-19 vaccine work better.

If you have a weakened immune system, some COVID-19 vaccines may also require you to get a third dose. The third dose makes the COVID-19 vaccine work better. Learn who should get a third dose and when at [this website](#).

Some people should also get an extra dose, called a booster shot. The booster shot makes the COVID-19 vaccine work longer. Learn who should get a booster shot and when at [this website](#).



You should continue to be careful after getting the vaccine.

If you have a weak immune system, you need to continue to wear a mask, wash your hands, and stay six feet away from other people.

If you live in an area with a lot of COVID-19 cases, you should wear a mask when you are:

- indoors,
- near a lot of people outside, or
- near people who did not get the vaccine.

Go to [this website](#) to see if you live in an area where you should wear a mask.

