

Vaccine Options for COVID-19

This decision aid is for people or caregivers of people 6 months or older. It is not for people with weakened immune systems. People with serious allergic reactions in the past should talk with their healthcare professional before getting the vaccine. This information is for vaccines available in the United States.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS	
What does the option involve?	
No Vaccine	Continue to follow other guidance about COVID-19.
Pfizer/BioNTech and Moderna Vaccines	Depending on your age and the vaccine, you will get 2 to 3 shots in your arm . Each shot is given 3 to 8 weeks apart .
Novavax Vaccine	People 12 years and up will get 2 shots in their arm . Each shot is given 3 to 8 weeks apart . People under 12 years cannot get this vaccine.
What are the benefits?	
No Vaccine	You will not have the side effects that are common with the COVID-19 vaccine.
Pfizer/BioNTech and Moderna Vaccines	The vaccine helps lower the risk of getting COVID-19. If you do get it, you will be less likely to get seriously ill . 2 weeks after having all your shots , it is safer to do things you did before the pandemic . You should still follow other guidance about COVID-19. Being fully vaccinated helps keep COVID-19 under control .
Novavax Vaccine	The vaccine helps lower the risk of getting COVID-19. If you do get it, you will be less likely to get seriously ill . 2 weeks after the second shot , it is safer to do things you did before the pandemic . You should still follow other guidance about COVID-19. Being fully vaccinated helps keep COVID-19 under control .

What are the short-term side effects or harms?	
No Vaccine	<p>You will be at higher risk of getting COVID-19.</p> <p>Symptoms of COVID-19 include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • feeling tired. • fever or chills. • body aches. • shortness of breath and cough. • problems with taste or smell. <p>COVID-19 can also lead to serious illness. This can result in a hospital stay, needing a machine to breathe, or death.</p>
Pfizer/BioNTech and Moderna Vaccines	<p>Common side effects within the first 3 days include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • feeling tired. • fever or chills. • body aches. • headache. • soreness from the shot. <p>These effects are more likely with the second shot and are normal effects the vaccine can have. They typically go away in 1 to 2 days.</p> <p>Serious side effects or harms are rare.</p>
Novavax Vaccine	<p>Common side effects within the first 3 days include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • feeling tired. • fever. • body aches. • headache. • soreness from the shot. <p>These effects are more likely with the second shot and are normal effects the vaccine can have. They typically go away in 1 to 2 days.</p> <p>Serious side effects or harms are rare.</p>

What are the long-term side effects or harms?	
No Vaccine	Sometimes short-term symptoms from COVID-19 can last for a long time. Some people get new symptoms that can include hair loss, trouble with focus or memory, or lung damage.
Pfizer/BioNTech and Moderna Vaccines	There are no long-term studies on COVID-19 vaccines. But side effects or harms from vaccines are uncommon after 6 weeks.
Novavax Vaccine	There are no long-term studies on COVID-19 vaccines. But side effects or harms from vaccines are uncommon after 6 weeks.
Should I get a booster?	
No Vaccine	Does not apply
Pfizer/BioNTech and Moderna Vaccines	The CDC recommends a booster with the updated Pfizer/BioNTech or Moderna vaccine if you have not had it yet. The updated vaccine is now the only one you can have. Talk with your healthcare professional about whether you should get a booster.
Novavax Vaccine	The CDC recommends an updated Pfizer/BioNTech or Moderna booster for people 12 years and up. Talk with your healthcare professional about when to get the booster. The Novavax booster is only used in limited situations.
What else do I need to know?	
No Vaccine	If you do not want a vaccine now but change your mind later, you can get it then.
Pfizer/BioNTech and Moderna Vaccines	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The vaccine cannot give you COVID-19. • The vaccine cannot change your DNA. • There is no microchip in the vaccine. • If you have had COVID-19, the vaccine may still lower your risk of getting it again.
Novavax Vaccine	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The vaccine cannot give you COVID-19. • The vaccine cannot change your DNA. • There is no microchip in the vaccine. • If you have had COVID-19, the vaccine may still lower your risk of getting it again.

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