



# COVID-19 Vaccines - Frequently Asked Questions

## GETTING A VACCINE



### How can I get vaccinated?

Vaccines are available at hundreds of locations throughout LA County such as clinics, pharmacies, schools, and other community locations. In-home vaccination is available for people who are homebound. Many locations do not require an appointment.

To find a location, visit [ph.lacounty.gov/howtogetvaccinated](https://ph.lacounty.gov/howtogetvaccinated). If you need help, you can call the **DPH Vaccine Call Center** at 1-833-540-0473, 7 days a week from 8am to 8:30pm. They can arrange in-home vaccination, free transportation to a vaccination site, or help with paratransit and other services for people with disabilities. You can also request an in-home vaccination at [ph.lacounty.gov/vaxathome](https://ph.lacounty.gov/vaxathome). Information is also available in multiple languages 24/7 by calling 2-1-1.

### Will I have to pay to get a COVID-19 vaccine?

No. If you have insurance, your doctor or pharmacy may charge your insurance company a fee for giving the vaccine. People without health insurance can also get COVID-19 vaccines at no cost. There are no out-of-pocket payments for anyone.

### Will I be asked about my immigration status when I get a COVID-19 vaccine?

No. COVID-19 vaccine is being given at no cost regardless of immigration status. Your medical information is private and getting a COVID-19 vaccine does not affect your immigration status. You do not need a government-issued ID or a letter from your employer to get a vaccine. For questions about immigration, visit the Office of Immigrant Affairs webpage [oia.lacounty.gov](https://oia.lacounty.gov) or call 800-593-8222.

### Do I need to give a mobile phone number or email address?

No. When you get a vaccine, you will be asked to give an email address or mobile phone number. This information will be entered into the State of California immunization registry (CAIR) so that you can get a digital COVID-19 vaccine record. It may also be used to send reminders when more COVID-19 vaccine doses are due. The digital vaccine record is a free and convenient way to prove your vaccination status. It is especially useful if you lose your white vaccine card. You don't need to provide your email address or mobile phone number to get a vaccine, but not providing this information may make it harder to get a digital vaccine record later. You can learn more about the digital vaccination record at [myvaccinerecord.cdph.ca.gov](https://myvaccinerecord.cdph.ca.gov) and about the confidentiality protections [here](#).

### Where can I get a copy of my vaccine record?

The CDC COVID-19 Vaccination Record Card (white card) is the official proof of vaccination. Everyone should be given one when they are vaccinated. **Please keep it safe as it cannot be replaced.** Consider taking a photo or making a photocopy of it.

Everyone\* who is vaccinated in California can request a digital COVID-19 Vaccination Record at [myvaccinerecord.cdph.ca.gov](https://myvaccinerecord.cdph.ca.gov). This is also an official record. It can be downloaded to the Google Pay digital wallet on an Android phone or the Apple Health app on an iPhone. You can also take a screenshot of your Digital COVID-19 Vaccine Record and save it to your camera roll. You can get a record for each person in



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## GETTING A VACCINE

your family. even if you used the same email address or mobile phone number when they got vaccinated. For more information, visit the [Vaccination Records](#) webpage.

\*If you were vaccinated by a federal agency (e.g., Department of Defense, Indian Health Service or Veterans Affairs), you must request a vaccine record from the agency directly.

### Do I need to provide consent for my child to be vaccinated?

Youth under 18 need consent from a parent/guardian or caregiver to get vaccinated. If you cannot be present, you may be allowed to give consent by phone, video, or in writing. Check the consent requirements of the place where you plan to go. If it is a location run by Public Health, you can see the requirements and download a consent form at [ph.lacounty.gov/howtogetvaccinated](http://ph.lacounty.gov/howtogetvaccinated) - click on '[preparing for your visit](#)' or call the Vaccine Call Center at 1-833-540-0473 (8am-8:30pm daily).

Some exceptions apply. Minors ages 15 years or older who are self-sufficient (e.g., emancipated or self-sufficient minor, married, or previously married) can give their own consent. If you are a foster caregiver, relative caregiver, or Short-Term Residential Therapeutic Program (STRTP) staff you can provide consent as long as the foster child agrees. If you are a foster caregiver and you do not give consent but your foster child wants to get a vaccine, they can contact their legal counsel.

### What documents do I need to bring to get my child vaccinated?

Photo ID may be required at some vaccination locations. If you are a guardian of a child in foster care who does not have a photo ID, have them contact their legal counsel. Another option is to go to a location run by the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health, which does not require a photo ID.

See above for information about consent. Check the requirements of the place you plan to go to. For the requirements at LA County Department of Public Health vaccine sites, visit [ph.lacounty.gov/howtogetvaccinated](http://ph.lacounty.gov/howtogetvaccinated)- click on '[preparing for your visit](#)' or call the Vaccine Call Center at 1-833-540-0473 (8am-8:30pm daily).

### Should I still get vaccinated if I've already had COVID-19?

Yes. You should get vaccinated even if you already had COVID-19 because the vaccine can help to prevent you from getting COVID-19 again.

Getting COVID-19 offers some protection from future illness with COVID-19, sometimes called "[natural immunity](#)." But the level of protection someone gets from infection varies. It depends on how mild or severe their illness was, the amount of time that has passed since they had COVID-19, and their age. There is currently no test that can reliably tell if a person is protected from getting COVID-19. People who already had COVID-19 and do not get vaccinated after their recovery are [more likely to get COVID-19 again](#) than those who get vaccinated after their recovery.

If you currently have COVID-19, wait until after you have recovered and your isolation period is over to get vaccinated. This is so you don't infect healthcare workers and others when you go to get your vaccine.





# COVID-19 Vaccines - Frequently Asked Questions

## GETTING A VACCINE

You may consider waiting for 3 months after you first got COVID-19 to start or continue a COVID-19 vaccine series or get a booster. This is because you are unlikely to get COVID-19 again within the first 3 months after infection. A longer time between infection and getting a vaccine may also result in a better immune response.

If you were sick with multisystem inflammatory syndrome of children or adults (MIS-C or MIS-A), talk with your doctor before getting a COVID-19 vaccine.

### Can I get the COVID-19 vaccine at the same time as a different vaccine?

Yes. Adults and children age 6 months and over can get a COVID-19 vaccine at the same time as other vaccines, such as polio, measles, whooping cough, and flu. If your child gets a COVID-19 vaccine at a place that doesn't offer the other vaccines that they need, you can go to a different location to get them at any time. There is no need to wait between vaccines.

### Can I get a routine medical procedure or screening test if I just had a COVID-19 vaccine?

Most routine medical procedures or screenings can be done before or after getting a COVID-19 vaccine.

Note: if you are due for a routine screening mammogram and have been recently vaccinated for COVID-19, ask your doctor how long you should wait before you get your mammogram. People who have received a COVID-19 vaccine may get swelling in the lymph nodes (called lymphadenopathy) in the underarm near where they got the shot. This swelling is a normal sign that the body is building protection against COVID-19. This temporary swelling could cause a false reading on a mammogram, so it is important to tell the staff about your vaccination. For more details, see the Society of Breast Imaging's [Recommendations for Women Receiving the COVID-19 Vaccine](#).

The COVID-19 vaccine can also affect the results of some kinds of screening tests for tuberculosis (TB), see the CDC webpage [COVID-19 Vaccination and Other Medical Procedures](#).

### How should I prepare for my visit to get a vaccination?

- Remember to bring the required documentation and your email address or mobile phone number if you have one. If you made an appointment, read the information in the confirmation email. If you have any questions, it may be helpful to write them down.
- If you do not regularly take over-the-counter medicine (such as ibuprofen, aspirin, acetaminophen, or antihistamines), do not take them before you get a COVID-19 vaccination to try to prevent side effects. But if you take them regularly for other reasons, you should keep taking them before you get vaccinated.
- **Pack a facemask, snack, and water.** On warm days, if you are visiting an outdoor location, wear a hat and lightweight clothing.
- For tips about how to talk to your child about COVID-19 vaccination and prepare them to get a vaccine, see [Getting Children Vaccinated](#) in the LAC DPH [COVID-19 vaccine FAQs](#).





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## GETTING A VACCINE

### What should I do after getting a vaccine?

- Make sure your vaccination provider updates your vaccination card (or gives you one if this is your first dose).
- Schedule your next dose of vaccine if you need one before you leave the vaccination site.
- Know that you may experience [side effects](#) after getting a vaccine. Adverse effects and severe allergic reactions are rare. To report any side effects, you can sign up for [v-safe](#).

### Where can I get more information?



- To print or view this FAQ or FAQs on other COVID-19 vaccine topics, scan the QR code or visit [COVID-19 vaccine FAQs](#).
- [VaccinateLACounty.com](#) – including [COVID-19 Vaccine Schedules](#) with graphics to show when each dose is due and information on [How to Get Vaccinated](#).
- Getting a [COVID-19 Vaccine](#) CDC webpage.
- Ask your doctor if you have questions.

