

Stanislaus County

COVID-19 VACCINE: Frequently Asked Questions

1. Why is getting vaccinated important?

Getting vaccinated is important to prevent you from getting sick from COVID-19 and from spreading it to others.

2. How does the COVID-19 vaccine work?

The vaccine works by helping our bodies develop immunity to the virus that causes COVID-19. The current vaccines available give our body instructions on how to protect us without getting the illness.

3. What are the benefits of getting vaccinated?

The COVID-19 vaccine will prevent you from getting COVID-19 and from spreading it to others.

4. What vaccine will I be receiving?

There are currently 3 vaccines:

- Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine
- Moderna COVID-19 vaccine
- Johnson & Johnson (Janssen) COVID-19 vaccine

5. How long will it take to get vaccinated?

- Wait times at vaccine clinics may differ depending on appointments and demand. However, getting vaccinated will only take a few minutes. After receiving the vaccine, individuals must remain on site for 15 minutes to ensure a severe allergic reaction is not experienced.

VACCINATION LIMITATIONS

6. What if I am allergic?

Tell your vaccine provider about all your medical conditions, including if you:

- have any allergies
- have any history of allergies.

You will be monitored for 15 mins after receiving the vaccination to ensure there is not an allergic reaction.

7. Who should not receive the vaccine?

- Please delay getting your vaccine if you have a fever or are currently experiencing any symptoms of COVID-19. If you have symptoms, you should get tested.
- Please delay getting your vaccine if you have recently recovered from COVID-19 and were treated with monoclonal antibodies or convalescent plasma.
- Please contact your healthcare provider to discuss your options if you:
 - i. Have a bleeding disorder or are on a blood thinner

- ii. Are immunocompromised or are on a medicine that affects your immune system
- iii. Have received another COVID-19 vaccine

8. Can I get the vaccine if I am pregnant or breastfeeding?

According to the CDC, people who are pregnant or breastfeeding and part of a group recommended to receive the COVID-19 vaccine may choose to be vaccinated. Please contact your healthcare provider to discuss your options.

9. Can children get the COVID-19 vaccine?

At this time there are no COVID-19 vaccines that have been authorized for children.

- Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine is for individuals aged 16 years and over
- Moderna vaccine is for individuals aged 18 years and over
- Johnson & Johnson (Janssen) vaccine is for individuals aged 18 years and over

WHAT TO EXPECT AFTER GETTING YOUR VACCINE?

10. What side effects should I expect after getting the vaccine?

Side effects are common after receiving a vaccine. You may have some side effects which means your body is building an immune response.

Common side effects are:

- Pain and swelling on the arm where you received the shot
- Fever
- Chills
- Feeling tired
- Headache
- Body Aches

The side effects should go away within a few days.

11. How many COVID-19 vaccinations will I be receiving?

- Two doses for the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine, 21 days apart
- Two doses for the Moderna vaccine, 28 days apart
- One dose for the Johnson & Johnson (Janssen) vaccine

Please refer to your COVID-19 Vaccination Card for the date of your second dose. You should receive your second dose from the same provider as your first dose.

12. How effective is the COVID-19 vaccine after I receive it?

All three vaccines are extremely effective at preventing severe illness and death from COVID-19. All three vaccines are also effective against variants.

13. Can I get COVID-19 from the vaccine?

No. You cannot get COVID-19 from the COVID-19 vaccine. The vaccine does not contain any COVID-19 virus material or an inactivated COVID-19 virus.

14. Will getting the vaccine cause me to test positive on a COVID-19 test?

No. Getting the COVID-19 vaccine will not cause you to test positive on a Viral COVID-19 Test that detects current infection, such as the nasal swab tests.

15. If I get the vaccine, do I still have to wear a mask and social distance?

Yes. After receiving the COVID-19 vaccine it is best to continue wearing a mask and practicing social distancing to protect yourself and others.

16. If I have already had COVID-19, do I need to be vaccinated?

Yes. At this time, it is not known how long someone is protected from getting sick again after recovering from COVID-19. According to the CDC, if you were treated for COVID-19 symptoms with monoclonal antibodies or convalescent plasma, you should wait 90 days before getting a COVID-19 vaccine.

17. If my workplace is requiring me to get the vaccine, do I have to get it?

It is your personal choice to receive the vaccine. However, employers may require employees to be vaccinated. Please check with your employer's Human Resources Department for more specific information.

18. If I receive the COVID-19 vaccine, will it affect my immigration status and count as public charge?

- Receiving the vaccine will NOT affect your immigration status
- U.S. Citizen and Immigration Services will not consider testing, treatment, or preventative care, including vaccines, related to COVID-19 as a part of public charge.

19. What do I do if I lose my Vaccination Card?

If you lose your vaccination card or need a replacement, please contact the vaccine provider. If your vaccine provider was Stanislaus County Public Health, please call the general COVID-19 information line (209) 558-7535.

20. What do I do if I miss my date for my second dose?

If you miss the date for your second dose, please contact the vaccine provider. If your vaccine provider was Stanislaus County Public Health, please call the general COVID-19 information line (209) 558-7535.