

Stanislaus County

COVID-19 VACCINE: Frequently Asked Questions

GETTING VACCINATED

1. Which vaccines are being offered? ***UPDATED***

We currently offer 3 vaccines:

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

CDC recommends that people receive the Pfizer (Comirnaty) or Moderna vaccines if they are available. We continue to offer the Johnson & Johnson vaccine for those who prefer it or are unable to receive the Pfizer (Comirnaty) or Moderna vaccines.

2. How many doses of COVID-19 Vaccine will I be receiving?

- Two doses for the Pfizer-BioNTech (Comirnaty) vaccine, 21 days (3 weeks) apart
- Two doses for the Moderna vaccine, 28 days (4 weeks) apart
- One dose for the Johnson & Johnson (Janssen) vaccine

If you have a moderately-to-severely weakened immune system, your healthcare provider may recommend that you receive a 3rd dose of the Pfizer (Comirnaty) or Moderna vaccines. Speak with your healthcare provider to find out if you will need a 3rd dose.

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

Yes, you can get vaccinated after recovering from COVID-19. 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.

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

Employers may require employees to be vaccinated. Please check with your employer's Human Resources Department for more specific information.

If your company has more than 100 employees or you work in healthcare, you may be affected by additional requirements through [Occupational Safety and Health Administration \(OSHA\)](#).

If you work at a healthcare facility that participates in Medicare or Medicaid, you may be affected by additional requirements through [Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services](#).

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

- Getting 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.

6. How long will it take to get vaccinated?

Wait times at vaccine clinics may differ depending on appointments and demand. Appointments are also available for your convenience. Getting vaccinated only takes a few minutes. However, individuals must remain on site after getting vaccinated for 15 minutes observation to ensure a severe allergic reaction is not experienced.

7. When do I get my second dose?

Please refer to your COVID-19 Vaccination Card for the date of your second dose. If you miss that date, visit any vaccine provider to get your second dose as soon as possible.

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

You should still get your second dose, even if it is late. Visit any vaccine provider to get your second dose as soon as possible.

9. Where should I get my second dose?

You can now walk-in or make an appointment to get your second dose at most vaccine providers. You no longer need to return to the same location where you got your first dose. For a list of additional local providers, visit schsa.org/coronavirus/vaccine

10. If I need a third dose, when can I get it?

If you are receiving a third dose due to a moderately-to-severely weakened immune system, you should receive your third dose at least 28 days after your second dose. Speak with your healthcare provider to find out exactly when you should receive your third dose.

BOOSTERS

11. Am I eligible for a booster? *UPDATED*

If you received the Pfizer (Comirnaty) vaccine, you're eligible if you:

- Are aged 12 or older AND
- Received your first 2 doses at least 5 months ago.

If you received the Moderna Vaccines, you're eligible if you:

- Are aged 18 or older AND
- Received your first 2 doses at least 5 months ago.

If you received the Johnson & Johnson vaccine, you're eligible if you:

- Are aged 18 or older AND
- Received your first dose at least 2 months ago

It's recommended that you receive your booster as soon as you are eligible.

12. Does the booster need to be the same brand my original doses?

No. Your booster dose doesn't need to match your original doses. For example, if you received the Johnson & Johnson vaccine, you can either receive the Johnson & Johnson vaccine again or receive the Pfizer or Moderna vaccines.

13. When am I considered boosted? *NEW QUESTION*

You are considered boosted as soon as you receive your booster dose.

VACCINE SAFETY

14. Are there any side effects from getting the vaccine?

Side effects are common after getting a vaccine. It 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.

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15. Should I be worried about a Severe Allergic Reaction? *UPDATED*

A Severe Allergic Reaction (Anaphylaxis) can happen with any vaccine. Severe Allergic Reactions to the COVID-19 vaccines usually happen within the first 30 minutes after vaccination and are *very rare*. After getting your vaccine, you will be asked to remain at the vaccination site for a 15-minute observation to make sure you do not have a Severe Allergic Reaction.

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

- have any allergies
- have any history of allergies.

If you have a history of severe allergic reaction, you will be asked to stay at the vaccination site for 30 minutes after getting vaccinated.

16. Should I be worried about Blood Clots and Low Blood Platelets? *UPDATED*

Blood Clots that happen at the same time as low blood platelet counts (Thrombosis w/ Thrombocytopenia Syndrome, or TTS) have been seen in some people who got the Johnson & Johnson vaccine. TTS is *very rare*. Symptoms usually began 1-2 weeks after being vaccinated. Seek medical attention if you notice any of the following symptoms several days after being vaccinated:

- Shortness of Breath
- Chest Pain
- Leg Swelling
- Persistent Abdominal Pain
- Severe Headaches or Blurred Vision
- Easy Bruising
- Tiny blood spots under the skin beyond the injection site.

17. Should I be worried about Heart Inflammation? *UPDATED*

Inflammation of the heart (Myocarditis) and Inflammation of the tissue surrounding the heart (Pericarditis) has been seen in some people who got the Pfizer (Comirnaty) or Moderna Vaccines. This is very rare. Symptoms usually begin within a few days of getting vaccinated. Seek medical attention if you notice any of these symptoms several days after being vaccinated:

- Chest Pain
- Shortness of Breath
- Feelings of a fast heartbeat or a fluttering/pounding heart

18. Who should not get 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

19. 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, live virus, or an inactivated COVID-19 virus.

20. 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.

21. Will getting the vaccine affect my ability to have children?

There is no evidence that getting the COVID-19 vaccine will make it difficult for you to have children. Vaccines are safe for people who are trying to become pregnant.

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

Yes, vaccines are safe for people who are currently pregnant. There is no evidence that receiving a COVID-19 vaccine has any negative effect on pregnancy. Increasing evidence shows that antibodies from vaccination may be able to cross the placenta into your baby, protecting them as soon as they are born.

23. Can children get the COVID-19 vaccine?

Yes. Children aged 5 and older can receive the Pfizer-BioNTech (Comirnaty) vaccine.

AFTER GETTING YOUR VACCINE

24. 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.

25. 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.

You may also get a digital copy of your COVID-19 vaccination card at myvaccinerecord.cdph.ca.gov

WHEN YOU'RE FULLY VACCINATED

26. When am I considered Fully Vaccinated?

If you received the Pfizer (Comirnaty) or Moderna vaccine, you are fully vaccinated 2 weeks after your 2nd dose.

If you received the Johnson & Johnson (Janssen) vaccine, you are fully vaccinated 2 weeks after your single dose.

27. What activities can I start doing again once I'm Fully Vaccinated?

Fully vaccinated people can resume doing many activities more safely. Visit www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/fully-vaccinated.html for more information.

28. Do I still need to quarantine and get tested when I'm Fully Vaccinated? *UPDATED*

If you're boosted or fully vaccinated and not yet eligible for your booster, you don't need to quarantine. However, you should get a test on day 5 after your exposure and wear a well-fitting mask around others for 10 days.

If you're fully vaccinated and booster-eligible but haven't yet received your booster, quarantine for at least 5 days after your last contact and get a test on day 5. If you do not develop symptoms and your test taken on day 5 or later is negative, you may exit quarantine. If you do not get tested, quarantine for 10 days. Wear a well-fitting mask around others for 10 days.

29. Should I still wear a mask, social distance, and take other precautions when I'm Fully Vaccinated? *UPDATED*

COVID-19 vaccines help protect against severe illness and hospitalizations. Until more people in our community get vaccinated, all layers of prevention are needed to protect ourselves and those around us.

You should follow any state and local laws and respect the policies of businesses and workplaces you visit. For example, if a store you visit requires its customers to wear masks while shopping, you should do so. We are in this together.

From 12/15/21 to 2/15/22, CDPH requires all individuals to wear masks in indoor public settings, regardless of vaccination status. Read CDPH's Full Guidance at: <https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/Pages/COVID-19/guidance-for-face-coverings.aspx>

If you are exposed to someone with COVID-19, wear a mask when around others for 10 days.

Certain precautions such as covering your coughs and washing your hands are generally healthy behaviors that should be continued.

30. How does being fully vaccinated affect travel? *UPDATED*

Once fully vaccinated, you are exempt from certain requirements designed for unvaccinated travelers. However certain guidelines still apply to you:

Masks are still required on all forms of public transportation including planes, trains, and busses. Masks are also still required in transportation hubs such as airports and train stations.

If you're traveling within the United States, you do not need to get tested before or after travelling and you do not need to quarantine once you arrive. Individual states, counties, or cities may have stricter requirements.

If you are travelling internationally, follow all the guidelines set by your destination country. When you return to the US, you must show a negative test result before boarding a return flight and you should get tested after you arrive, but you do not have to quarantine. Individual states, counties, or cities may have stricter requirements.