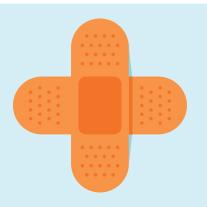


# Get the facts about the COVID-19 vaccine



The FDA and CDC have approved two new COVID-19 vaccines. They are from Pfizer BioNTech and Moderna.

## How are the new COVID-19 shots different from the last ones?

The new vaccines target more recent variants of COVID-19.

#### Who should get one and when?

The CDC recommends the 2024-2025 COVID-19 vaccine to anyone 6 months of age and older.<sup>1</sup>

**6 months to 4 years:** Number of doses varies based on the vaccine and when last received.

5 years and older: One dose

Most people should get the updated COVID-19 shot as soon as possible. It is best to wait at least two months after your last COVID-19 shot or infection.

People with weak immune systems may be able to get other doses. The timing of the vaccines may also be different.<sup>2</sup>

# Are there any side effects to the updated vaccine that are different from previous shots?

No, the possible side effects reported for the updated COVID vaccine are the same.

#### Is the vaccine free?

Yes, COVID vaccines are covered under your prescription benefit when obtained at participating networks pharmacies.

### Should I get a flu shot and the COVID-19 vaccine?

Yes. The flu and COVID-19 vaccines are for different illnesses. A seasonal flu shot will not protect you from COVID-19. Getting both vaccines will help protect you the most. COVID-19 vaccines are available at participating network pharmacies. Flu shots are available at Union Health Service. Inc. offices.

#### Where can I go for more information?

Visit cdc.gov/coronavirus to learn more about COVID-19 vaccine.

#### Sources

The information provided is for general informational purposes only and is not intended to be medical advice or a substitute for professional health care. You should consult an appropriate health care professional for your specific needs. All Optum trademarks and logos are owned by Optum, Inc. in the U.S. and other jurisdictions. All other brand or product names are trademarks or registered marks of their respective owners.

<sup>1.</sup> Stay Up to Date with COVID-19 Vaccines, https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/stay-up-to-date.html, Accessed Sept. 14, 2023

<sup>2.</sup> What to Know About the Updated COVID-19 Vaccine for Fall/Winter, 2023https://publichealth.jhu.edu/2023/what-to-know-about-the-updated-covid-19-vaccine-for-fall/winter-2023.