



# Frequently asked questions about the COVID-19 vaccine in Oregon

(Updated 4-16-2021)

## General

### Q1: Why should I get a COVID-19 vaccination?

A1: Vaccination is a safe, effective, and reliable way to prevent getting sick from COVID-19. It's the best tool we have to help us end the COVID-19 pandemic in Oregon. By getting vaccinated, wearing masks, washing our hands, staying physically distant and avoiding large indoor gatherings we can help stop the spread. If enough of us get vaccinated, we can achieve community immunity and the virus will not spread quickly.

### Q2: How does the COVID-19 vaccine work?

A2: Pfizer and Moderna vaccines are messenger RNA, or mRNA, vaccines. mRNA vaccines give our cells instructions for how to make a harmless protein that is unique to the virus. The J & J vaccine is similar, but instead of delivering the message in a fat bubble, it utilizes the harmless shell of a cold virus to deliver the message to our cells. Our bodies recognize that the protein should not be there and build T-lymphocytes and B-lymphocytes that will remember how to fight the virus that causes COVID-19 if we are infected in the future. The CDC has additional information on [how mRNA vaccines work](#).

### Q3: Is the COVID-19 vaccine safe?

A3: Vaccination is the safest, most effective, and most reliable way to keep yourself, your family, and your community healthy and safe from COVID-19. COVID-19 vaccines are highly effective and have undergone rigorous safety testing. Thanks to advances in medicine, scientists were able to create and test a vaccine quickly. The Food & Drug Administration (FDA) requires rigorous safety testing before it will authorize any vaccine. Tens of thousands of people — including Oregonians — from many backgrounds, ages, and communities of color, participated in vaccine testing.

### Q4: Is the vaccine safe if I've had a bad reaction to a flu shot? What if my doctor told me not to get a flu shot again? What if I have a bad reaction to the first dose of the COVID-19 vaccine?

A4: You should talk to your doctor about your specific situation and any history of allergies or reactions to vaccines or injectable therapies.

The CDC does not recommend vaccination for individuals with a history of:

- Severe allergic reaction (like anaphylaxis) after a previous dose of an mRNA COVID-19 vaccine or any of its components.
- Immediate allergic reaction of any severity to a previous dose of an mRNA COVID-19 vaccine, or any of its components (including polyethylene glycol).
- Immediate allergic reaction of any severity to polysorbate.
- Any patient with a history of immediate allergic reaction of any severity to any vaccine, injectable therapy, food, medication, or insect venom, as well as any patient with a history of anaphylaxis, should be monitored for 30 minutes after vaccination.

For more information, visit <https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/covid-19/info-by-product/clinical-considerations.html#Appendix-A>

**Q5: What does Emergency Use Authorization (EUA) mean?**

**A5:** In times of a public health emergency, like a pandemic, the FDA allows the use of certain life-saving drugs and treatments through Emergency Use Authorization (EUA). The COVID-19 vaccine was tested in tens of thousands of study participants, which generated enough data to convince the FDA the vaccine is safe and effective, and the manufacturer producing the vaccine meets all safety standards.

**Q6: How soon do vaccines become effective?**

**A6:** All vaccines are considered effective two weeks after you've received the full series (1 dose for J & J; 2 doses for Pfizer or Moderna).

You will have some protection sooner, but for full protection, wait the full two weeks.

**Q7: Will there be enough COVID-19 vaccine for everyone?**

**A7:** The vaccine may be scarce at first, so distribution will be prioritized. As COVID-19 vaccine manufacturing ramps up eventually there will be enough vaccine for everyone. This timing depends upon how many vaccines are approved and the total supply of vaccine available through manufacturers. We hope by summer 2021, everyone who wants a COVID-19 vaccination can get one.

**Q8: How will Oregon ensure equitable vaccine distribution?**

**A8:** At the Oregon Health Authority, working with Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs) is at the core of our effort to eliminate COVID-19 health inequities.

Oregon is prioritizing FQHCs for vaccine allocations because:

- FQHCs serve people who work in jobs that are most at-risk.

- They've set up testing sites for their patients and the wider community.
- FQHCs are the trusted providers for many people who are uninsured, disabled, or lack reliable transportation.
- They are a preferred option for people who may be wary of large institutions and law enforcement.
- They have credibility in their communities at a time when disinformation about coronavirus vaccines is rampant on social media.

**Q9: I've already had COVID-19 and recovered. Do I still need to get vaccinated with a COVID-19 vaccine when it's available?**

**A9:** Since the antibody levels drop after a natural infection, it is currently recommended that people who have had the illness be vaccinated to boost the immune response and provide longer term protection. A person who has tested positive for COVID-19 and still has symptoms should wait to the end of their isolation period (10 days, or 20 days) to get the vaccine to avoid infecting the person giving the vaccine. Those who have received monoclonal antibody treatments for treatment of COVID-19 should wait a full 90 days to get the vaccine.

**Q10: Will I still need to wear a mask after I get the COVID-19 vaccination?**

**A10:** If you are fully vaccinated, you may choose not to wear a mask only when visiting others in private indoor or private outdoor settings. You must still wear a mask in all other settings per the [OHA Statewide Face Covering guidelines](#).

If you choose to have private social gatherings, it is still recommended that you:

Do not gather with unvaccinated people from more than one other household.

Do not visit with an unvaccinated person who is at increased risk of severe illness or death from COVID-19 or who lives with a person at increased risk

**Q11: Where can I find more information about the COVID-19 vaccines?**

**A11:** Information regarding safety, distribution, provider enrollment for administering vaccines and more can be found on the OHA COVID-19 vaccine website at <https://covidvaccine.oregon.gov/>

**Q12: Are there any ADA accommodations being made for individuals with a disability?**

**A12:** Vaccination clinics must comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act. Prior to operating a vaccination clinic, the entity must have policies and procedures in place that includes how it will serve people with disabilities, including steps to communicate effectively with customers with disabilities and a process for receiving and responding to ADA complaints.

OHA and ODHS have worked with disability stakeholders to identify potential barriers, solutions, and resources for local public health and health system partners

to make vaccines available in our communities. You can find this tool on OHA's website: Vaccine Access for People with Disabilities tool <https://sharedsystems.dhsoha.state.or.us/DHSForms/Served/le3573.pdf>. It includes ADA guidance for vaccine clinics.

**Q13: Will I be required to get a COVID-19 vaccination?**

**A13:** OHA does not plan to require the COVID-19 vaccination, but we do strongly recommend vaccination for the safety and health of the entire community.

**Q14: What do I do if I lost my vaccination card?**

**A14:** You can request your personal Oregon vaccination record from your health care provider, or you can request the information from OHA. Because of the current volume of immunization data requests, it may be some time before you get a reply.

You can request your record from OHA here:

<https://www.oregon.gov/oha/PH/PREVENTIONWELLNESS/VACCINESIMMUNIZATION/GETTINGIMMUNIZED/Pages/ImmRecords.aspx>

**Q15: Can I still get the virus and pass on the virus after I've been vaccinated, even if I don't have any symptoms?**

**A15:** The ability of COVID-19 vaccines to prevent someone from passing on the virus to others has not been definitively proven, although evidence from at least some of the vaccine trials and subsequent research is encouraging. No vaccine has been shown to be 100% effective, so we expect there will be "breakthrough" cases of vaccinated individuals who afterwards test positive for COVID-19. These individuals, whether or not symptomatic, may be able to pass on the virus to others.

## Eligibility

**Q1: Who is eligible to get a COVID-19 vaccine in Oregon?**

**A1:** As of April 19, 2021, anyone who lives in Oregon age 16 and above who wants to get a COVID-19 vaccine can get one. However, there is still limited vaccine in the state, and it may be difficult to get an appointment for a vaccine right away. Please keep trying. <https://govstatus.egov.com/find-covid-19-vaccine>

If you need assistance:

- Text ORCOVID to 898211
- Email [ORCOVID@211info.org](mailto:ORCOVID@211info.org)
- Call 211

**Q2: When will youth and children under age 16 become eligible?**

**A2:** Currently no vaccine has been authorized for people under the age of 16. Pfizer recently applied for authorization for their vaccine to be administered to

people 12 and older. It is possible that by mid-summer, people age 12 and up would be able to be vaccinated with the Pfizer vaccine.

**Q3: My permanent residence is in another state, but I'm staying in Oregon (student, multiple homes, staying with family, etc.). Can I get my vaccine in Oregon?**

A3: If you are currently residing in Oregon you may get your vaccine in Oregon.

**Q4: Can people who work in Oregon but live in a bordering state get vaccinated in Oregon?**

A4: If you live in a bordering state you are being included in that state's population for purposes of vaccine allocation and you should get your vaccine from the state where you live, not the state where you work.

**Q5: Can I go to another county to get the COVID-19 vaccine?**

A5: You are encouraged to get vaccinated in the county you live in, but you can get vaccinated in any county in Oregon.

## Getting your vaccine

**Q1: Where can I get vaccinated?**

A1: Right now, vaccine providers include local public health authorities or their partners, hospitals, and health clinics, select pharmacies, federally qualified health centers, mobile clinics, Tribal Health Authorities, and Veteran's Administration health providers. You may also get your vaccine at a mass vaccination event. As the vaccine supply increases, you may be able to get vaccinated at more places.

People who live in Oregon are encouraged to create an account with Get Vaccinated Oregon. By creating an account, you can learn about vaccine events happening near you through text or email notifications, as well as by searching the Vaccine Locator Map. Sign up today at <https://getvaccinated.oregon.gov/#>

**Q2: Can patients admitted to a hospital receive vaccination as an inpatient?**

A2: Yes, patients may receive a vaccination in the hospital, however most hospitals and health systems are not currently receiving vaccine allocations for this purpose. The majority of vaccine allocations to hospitals and health systems are designated for community events and should not be used to give preference to their own patients. The only exception is for certain psychiatric hospitals, including the Oregon State Hospital, which received vaccines for their patient population because they are in residential congregate care settings. If a hospital vaccinates a patient who is admitted to their facility, they must ensure the patient, upon discharge, has an appointment for receiving the second dose.

**Q3: Can hospitals/health systems vaccinate the patients they serve on an outpatient basis?**

**A3:** Yes, hospitals and health systems have been important partners in the state's COVID-19 vaccination efforts. However, hospitals and health systems should not use vaccine allocations designated for community events in a way that gives preference to their own patients (e.g., for closed events or private scheduling opportunities). Hospitals and health systems are encouraged to directly connect their patients and members to publicly available COVID-19 vaccine appointment portals and events.

**Q4: Do I need to bring identification (ID) with me?**

**A4:** You do not need documentation or specific identification. You will receive proof you have been vaccinated; do not lose the card you are given.

**Q5: Do I need to provide a social security number to schedule a vaccine appointment?**

**A5:** No. If you are asked for a social security number during the appointment scheduling process, you do not need to provide one and can leave that question blank.

**Q6: How much will it cost? Do I need to have insurance to get a vaccine?**

**A6:** COVID-19 vaccines are free for you. You do not need health insurance. If you have health insurance, you should bring your insurance information with you, you may be asked for this information when you get the COVID-19 vaccine. If you do not have health insurance, vaccine providers cannot charge *you* for giving you a vaccine.

**Q7: I need help getting to a vaccine clinic. Can I be provided transportation to get vaccinated? How do I arrange for that?**

**A7:** If you are an Oregon Health Plan member and need a ride to get a vaccine, rides are free. Find the [OHP ride services](#) in your area. You can also call your [CCO plan](#).

If you are an older adult or an adult with a physical disability, there may also be other services in your community to assist with transportation. To learn more, contact the Aging and Disability Resource Connection of Oregon (ADRC) to see what community-based transportation and other services are available to assist you: 1-855-ORE-ADRC or <https://www.adrcoforegon.org/consumersite/index.php>

If you receive in-home services through the Oregon Department of Human Services (ODHS) Office of Aging and People with Disabilities (APD), you may ask your Medicaid-funded in-home provider to take you to a clinic and to wait with you at the clinic.

Other local resources may also be available. Ask the ride service that you normally use for doctor's appointments if they are providing rides for vaccines.

**Q8: Will I have to wait in line for a vaccine?**

**A8:** Many vaccination sites and events will ask you to pre-register so that they can safely manage the flow of patients to avoid lines. Large vaccine sites are also working to make sure their sites are accessible for older adults and people with disabilities, particularly those who have mobility issues. But you also may have to wait. If waiting in a line will be difficult for you, you should let the vaccine site know that you may need an accommodation.

**Q9: What if I get exposed to COVID-19 after my first dose?**

**A9:** If you are exposed to COVID-19, you should follow the public health guidelines and stay home for 14 days even if you've gotten your first shot.

**Q10: How long will I need to be observed after I am vaccinated? What if I have a history of allergies?**

**A10:** People with a history of an immediate allergic reaction of any severity to a vaccine or injection and people with a history of anaphylaxis, due to any cause, should be observed for 30 minutes. Everyone else should be observed for 15 minutes. This means you need to wait where you got your shot so the vaccine provider can watch you to make sure you're feeling okay.

**Q11: I got a vaccine that requires two shots, when should I get the second dose of the COVID-19 vaccine? How will I remember?**

**A11:** The Pfizer and Moderna vaccines require two doses to promote a full immune response. The second dose of the Pfizer vaccine should be administered 21 days after the first dose, and the Moderna vaccine should be administered 28 days after the first dose. Individuals can enroll in [VaxText](#), a CDC program that will send the patient a text when their next dose is due. Some vaccine providers may also send you a reminder.

The Johnson & Johnson vaccine requires only one dose.

**Q12: What if I have a bad reaction to my COVID-19 vaccination?**

**A12:** Safety is a top priority. The CDC and FDA encourage the public to report possible side effects (called adverse events) to the [Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System \(VAERS\)](#). This national system collects these data to look for adverse events that are unexpected, appear to happen more often than expected or have unusual patterns of occurrence. Learn about the [difference between a vaccine side effect and an adverse event](#). Reports to VAERS help the CDC monitor the safety of vaccines.

**Q13: Who should I call if I have side effects: the vaccination site or my primary care provider?**

**A13:** If you have concerns about any side effects after you leave the vaccination site, you should contact your primary care provider. If it's an emergency, you can go to an urgent care or emergency facility. You can also report your side effects to the CDC using the app [vsafe.cdc.gov](#).

**Q14: I got my first dose and now it's time for my second dose, but the location is out of vaccines. What should I do?**

A14: You should receive your second dose of the COVID-19 vaccine at the same location you received the first, unless otherwise directed by the vaccine provider.

Vaccine providers automatically receive second doses for those who have received a first dose. If the provider did not make an appointment for the second dose, you should contact your local public health authority.

**Q15: If I get my first dose of the vaccine in Oregon, can I get the second dose in another state?**

A15: We encourage you to get your second dose at the same location as the first. If you need to get vaccinated in another state, you must provide documentation of having received your first dose that shows which vaccine you were given. The vaccinator must document both doses in Oregon's Immunization Information System (ALERT IIS).

**Q16: If someone gets vaccinated before they travel, do they still have to adhere to the 14-day quarantine recommended by the state when they return?**

A16: Consistent with the CDC Interim Public Health Recommendations for Fully Vaccinated People, Oregon does not recommend quarantine of individuals after travel from other states, if:

- They have received both doses of a two-dose COVID-19 vaccine (or one dose of a single-dose vaccine),

AND

- It has been at least 14 days since their final dose of COVID-19 vaccine,

AND

- They have no COVID-19 symptoms.

Individuals should still monitor themselves for COVID-19 symptoms during the 14 days after travel and, if symptoms develop, they should self-isolate and seek testing. <https://sharedsystems.dhsoha.state.or.us/DHSForms/Served/le2351r.pdf>

**Q17: I received a COVID vaccine (that is not authorized in the US) while in another country. Should I be vaccinated again with an authorized vaccine once in Oregon?**

A17: If you have been vaccinated with the recommended number of doses of an authorized vaccine in another country, you do not need to be vaccinated again. We have no data on the risks or benefits of revaccination, but if you want to be vaccinated again, you can.

## 16-17 Year Old's

### Q1: When are 16 and 17-year-old people eligible for vaccine?

A1: Since December 2020, 16 and 17-year-old people have been receiving vaccines because they are medically fragile or have developmental disabilities, in custody of the Oregon Youth Authority, or living in other kinds of group homes or congregate care homes. Sixteen and 17-year-old people with underlying health conditions became eligible for vaccination on April 5. Everyone age 16 and older is eligible to be vaccinated beginning April 19.

### Q2: Which vaccine can 16 and 17-year-old people be vaccinated with?

A2: Currently the only vaccine that has been authorized by the FDA for use by people under the age of 18 is the Pfizer (or Pfizer BioNTech) vaccine. Sixteen and 17-year-old people should look for appointments in locations that have access to the Pfizer vaccine.

### Q3: Where can 16 and 17-year-old people get access to Pfizer vaccine?

A3: Visit OHA's webpage How to Find a COVID-19 Vaccine in Oregon: <https://govstatus.egov.com/find-covid-19-vaccine>, or the CDC's website, VaccineFinder.org: <https://vaccinefinder.org/> for information about how to find a vaccine appointment. Not all vaccine sites tell you what kind of vaccine is available. OHA is working to increase information about the type of vaccine that's available and VaccineFinder.org allows you to search by vaccine type. There are some areas of the state where the Pfizer vaccine is not readily available. OHA is working to expand the availability of Pfizer so that anyone who wants to get vaccinated can access the vaccine that has been authorized for them.

### Q4: Can I schedule more than one child at a time?

A4: Yes, most vaccination sites require an appointment, scheduling can be done through the vaccine site. Visit OHA's webpage, How to Find a COVID-19 Vaccine in Oregon: <https://govstatus.egov.com/find-covid-19-vaccine>, or the CDC's website VaccineFinder.org: <https://vaccinefinder.org/> for information about how to find a vaccine appointment. Not all vaccine sites tell you what kind of vaccine is available. OHA is working to increase information about the type of vaccine that's available and VaccineFinder.org allows you to search by vaccine type.

### Q5: Can caregivers get vaccinated at the same place their child is vaccinated?

A5: On April 19, all people in Oregon are eligible to receive vaccine. Most vaccination sites require an appointment, scheduling can be done through the vaccine site. Visit OHA's webpage, How to Find a COVID-19 Vaccine in Oregon: <https://govstatus.egov.com/find-covid-19-vaccine>, or the CDC's website, VaccineFinder.org: <https://vaccinefinder.org/> for information about how to find a vaccine appointment. Not all vaccine sites tell you what kind of vaccine is available. OHA is working to increase information about the type of vaccine that's available and VaccineFinder.org allows you to search by vaccine type.

**Q6: What are the side effects for people 16 and 17-years-old?**

**A6:** The vaccine was tested on people 16–55 years of age. Most people develop some soreness at the injection site. Fatigue and headache are common. Less common are muscle aches, chills, joint pain, vomiting, or fever. These side effects are more common in the 16-55 age group than among older adults. The great majority resolve after a day or two.

**Q7: Can my 16 or 17-year-old get vaccinated at school?**

**A7:** Not at this time. OHA and the Oregon Department of Education are working on plans to communicate with people 16 and 17-years-old about vaccine availability. As vaccine becomes more accessible because there is more being produced and it's possible to make vaccine available in different locations, schools will continue to be partners in vaccine efforts, which could include vaccination opportunities.

**Q8: When will other vaccines be authorized for this age group?**

**A8:** We don't know. Vaccines are authorized by the FDA following review of an application by a manufacturer. At this point, no other manufacturers have applied for authorization for persons under 18 years of age.

**Q9: Do parents need to accompany their child to their vaccine appointment?**

**A9:** Under Oregon law, minors 15 and older may give consent to medical treatment, including vaccinations, provided by a physician, physician assistant, naturopath, nurse practitioner, dentist or optometrist, or others operating under the license of these providers, without the consent of a parent or guardian.

It is OHA's understanding that most locations where COVID-19 vaccinations are provided have oversight by a medical provider who would meet the definition of the provider types listed above, and therefore consent of a parent or guardian should not be required for a 16 or 17-year-old who wishes to get the Pfizer vaccine.

Providers administering COVID-19 vaccinations to 16 or 17-year-old people should make it clear at the time a vaccine appointment is made whether consent from a parent or guardian will be required.

**Q10: What should 16 and 17-year-old people know before they show up?**

**A10:** The Pfizer vaccine is safe and effective. The Food & Drug Administration (FDA) requires rigorous safety testing before it will authorize any vaccine. The COVID-19 vaccine from Pfizer was tested in thousands of study participants and generated enough data to convince the FDA that the vaccine was safe and effective.

Vaccine supply is currently limited. Because of limited supply, not everyone will be able to receive one right away.

The COVID-19 vaccine will be free. The vaccines will be provided at no cost to you. You do not need health insurance. If you have health insurance, vaccine providers

may charge your insurance company an administration fee for giving you the vaccine. This means that you might be asked for your insurance information when you get your vaccine.

Proof of eligibility or identification is not required. No need to bring proof of eligibility, identification, social security number or health insurance. Vaccine providers may ask if you live in Oregon or what kind of work you do.

## Vaccine distribution in Oregon

### **Q1: Will OHA publish vaccination information on a regular basis, in the same manner that you publicly report the daily number of tests, new cases and deaths from COVID-19?**

**A1:** Yes, OHA is reporting vaccine and vaccination data on the COVID-19 vaccine website. You can get the facts about COVID-19 vaccines and track Oregon's progress at <https://covidvaccine.oregon.gov>.

### **Q2: Do COVID-19 vaccines need special storage?**

**A2:** Many vaccines, like Moderna, require a standard cold chain involving either basic refrigeration or freezing. The J&J vaccine is stored in the refrigerator. The Pfizer vaccine requires a special ultra-cold chain using a specialized freezer that keeps vaccine at temperatures of -60 ° to -80 ° Celsius (-76° to -112° Fahrenheit). Oregon has a limited number of these freezers, though some hospitals and universities have them. The vaccine's packaging can be filled with dry ice pellets, which may allow vaccine to be stored up to 30 days without the use of a specialized sub-zero freezer.

### **Q3: Are you buying more ultra-cold storage freezers?**

**A3:** In early January, OHA received 15 small, portable ultra-low temperature storage units to increase storage of the Pfizer vaccine in non-hospital settings or in communities that don't have the resources or need to buy their own unit. All units have been distributed and currently OHA is not planning to purchase more. We are looking at the total picture of vaccine distribution, including vaccines that do not require ultracold storage. We expect federal allocations of different vaccines to continue to change and are working with our partners to maintain flexibility in our distribution systems so that we ensure access to the COVID-19 vaccine throughout Oregon regardless of available products.

### **Q4: Who is responsible for making sure vaccines are distributed equitably and to those who qualify according to the state's distribution plan?**

**A4:** The distribution of vaccines in Oregon is managed by the Oregon Health Authority, in consultation with the Governor's Office.

The CDC advises OHA on weekly allocations available to Oregon. This is based on a pro-rata system including numbers of population in need by risk category. For Oregon, that is approximately 1.21 percent. OHA places orders with the CDC to

ship directly to vaccine providers. Shipments are based on populations providers can serve and available refrigeration/freezer capacity. Vaccines are delivered directly to providers using the CDC's contracted delivery organizations.

Vaccine is shipped from the manufacturers directly to the providers in Oregon. Providers can track their shipments through the Oregon ALERT IIS (Immunization Information System).

## Details about the vaccine

### Q1: What are the COVID-19 vaccine's side effects?

A1: According to the FDA, the most common side effects found in the COVID-19 vaccine trials included pain, redness or swelling at the injection site, fatigue, headache, chills, muscle pain and joint pain. After getting the COVID-19 vaccine, you will probably have a sore arm. You might have muscle aches, joint pain, tiredness, headache, chills, or maybe a fever. (Fever is less common.) This often means the vaccine is working to keep your body healthy. These are normal signs that your body is building protection. Sometimes these side effects may stop you from doing your normal activities for a couple days. Most of these side effects should go away in a few days.

### Q2: I'm pregnant. Can I get a COVID-19 vaccination?

A2: CDC doesn't have any COVID-19 safety data on pregnant women, though animal and human studies are ongoing. mRNA vaccines are not "live virus" vaccines. If a woman is part of a group (i.e., health care worker) recommended to get a COVID-19 vaccine and is pregnant, she may choose to get the vaccine in consultation with her medical provider's help in making an informed decision.

Things to consider:

- Level of COVID-19 in the community and the risk of transmission
- The personal risk of acquiring COVID-19 (occupation or other activities)
- The risk of COVID-19 to her or her fetus
- The efficacy of the vaccine
- The side effects of the vaccine
- The lack of data about the vaccine during pregnancy
- Women who take the vaccine and have fever as a side effect should take acetaminophen (Tylenol)
- Routine testing for pregnancy before vaccination is not recommended

### Q3: Are the vaccines interchangeable?

A3: No, the vaccines are not the same. The Pfizer and Moderna vaccines are very similar. They are both effective and stop the virus in the same way, so people

should take whichever is available to them. But your second dose must be from the same vaccine brand as your first dose.

The J&J vaccine is only one dose, so if you received it, you're completely vaccinated and should not get a second dose of this or another vaccine.

**Q4: Is the COVID-19 vaccine a live virus?**

A4: No, none of the three authorized COVID-19 vaccines are live virus.

**Q5: Will the Pfizer vaccine remain at freezing temperatures when it is injected? Or will it be warmed up?**

A5: The vaccine will be diluted and stored in a refrigerator or at room temperature up to six hours before the vaccination.

**Q6: Can a person receive the COVID-19 vaccine while they are sick?**

A6: Those with mild illness may receive the vaccines with no effect on vaccine safety or effectiveness. However, for those with COVID-19, please wait until the end of your isolation period, meaning either 10 days or longer depending on when you recover from your symptoms, before getting vaccines to keep from spreading your illness to health care workers who are administering the vaccine.

**Q7: Are both doses of the COVID-19 vaccine the same amount? Is the second dose less or more than the first dose?**

A7: Both doses are the same amount for the Pfizer and Moderna vaccine. A dose of the Pfizer vaccine is not the same as a dose of the Moderna vaccine.

**Q8: Can I get other shots at the same time as my COVID-19 vaccine?**

A8: Just to be safe, the CDC recommends you wait for two weeks after getting other vaccines before getting a COVID-19 vaccine. Once you get your COVID-19 vaccine, you should wait for two weeks before getting other vaccines.

You may not be able to get a COVID-19 vaccine right away, now is a perfect time to receive other vaccines that may be due, like a flu shot, tetanus shot or shingles vaccine.

## Where can I go for more information?

- Go to <https://covidvaccine.oregon.gov>.
- Text ORCOVID to 898211 to get text/SMS updates (English and Spanish only).
- Email [ORCOVID@211info.org](mailto:ORCOVID@211info.org).

If you can't get your COVID-19 vaccine question answered on <https://covidvaccine.oregon.gov>, by text, or by email, call the call center at 211 or 1-866-698-6155. It is open from 6 a.m. to 7 p.m. daily, including holidays.

- Wait times may be long due to high call volumes. There is an option to get a call back rather than wait on hold.
- English and Spanish are spoken at the call center. Free interpretation is available for all other languages.
- TTY: Dial 711 or call 1-866-698-6155.

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