



Frequently Asked Questions About COVID-19 Vaccines in Oregon

Migrant and seasonal farmworkers, seafood and agricultural workers, and food processing workers are eligible to receive COVID-19 vaccines. Here are answers to the most frequently asked questions.

Q: Why should I get a COVID-19 vaccine?

Vaccination is a safe and effective way to keep you and the people you love safe from COVID-19. The vaccine will make your body stronger to fight COVID-19 and protect you from getting sick. You cannot get COVID-19 from the vaccine.

Q: Is the COVID-19 vaccine safe?

All COVID-19 vaccines have been tested to make sure they are safe and effective. They were tested in tens of thousands of people—including many Oregonians—from many backgrounds, ages, communities, and many of them had underlying medical problems like chronic heart or lung disease, diabetes, and immunocompromising conditions.

Q: Will the vaccine protect me from getting COVID-19?

The COVID-19 vaccines are highly effective at preventing serious disease and hospitalization.

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

After you get your vaccine, you may have a sore spot on your arm where you got the vaccine. Some people will also feel tired or have a fever for a few days. This doesn't mean you are sick. It means the vaccine is working to keep your body healthy.

Q: How do the vaccines work?

The vaccines tell our cells how to make a harmless protein that is the same as the protein on the outside of the virus. Our immune system sees the proteins and builds antibodies that will remember how to fight the COVID-19 virus if we get infected.

Q: I already had COVID-19. Do I still need to get vaccinated?

Yes. Even if you've been sick with COVID-19, the vaccine will help protect you and those around you. Wait until you have fully recovered from COVID-19 before you get a vaccine.

Q: Where can I get the vaccine?

Visit the [vaccine locator map](#) to find a vaccine provider near you or call 211 or (866) 698-6155 for information and assistance in any language.

Q: How much will it cost? Do I need to have insurance?

The vaccine is free for everyone in Oregon. You will not be charged for the appointment or the vaccine. You do not need health insurance to get a vaccine.

Q: Do I need to bring identification to prove my eligibility?

No. You do not need to bring proof of eligibility. You may be asked whether you work on a farm, in a seafood facility, or in a food processing facility. You may be asked to provide personal identification.

Q: Do I need to provide a social security number to get a vaccine?

No. You do not need a social security number.

Q: Do I need to be a U.S. citizen to get the vaccine? Will it affect my immigration status or be counted as public charge?

Everyone in Oregon who is eligible can get the vaccine. You do not need to be a U.S. citizen and it will not affect your immigration status or be counted as public charge.

Q: What is in the COVID-19 vaccines?

The vaccine does not change your DNA and does not contain a live virus or any animal materials. The Pfizer Comirnaty and Moderna vaccines are made from a material created naturally by the body. The Johnson & Johnson vaccine uses a virus that makes us develop immunity to COVID-19.

Q: Are there fetal cells in the vaccine?

No. There are no fetal cells in any of the vaccines. The Johnson & Johnson vaccine uses a harmless cold virus to deliver the instructions to the body. Producing this vaccine virus requires the use of cells grown in laboratories from cells taken from fetal tissue many years ago, but the finished vaccine is purified and does not contain any fetal cells or human DNA.

Q: Do I need a second shot of the vaccine? How will I know when and where to go?

For the Pfizer Comirnaty and Moderna vaccines, you will need to get two shots. You get the second shot 3 or 4 weeks after you get the first one. It is important for you to get both shots. The clinic where you got your first shot will contact you to schedule your second shot. The Johnson & Johnson vaccine requires only one shot.

You will be informed which vaccine you receive and what kind of follow-up, if any, you need to have. You will receive proof of your vaccination. Do not lose the card you are given.

Q: What do I do if I lose my vaccination card?

If you lose or damage your vaccination card, you can use your record of vaccination as proof. You can get your record of vaccination by:

- Checking with your health care provider or their website for your immunization record
- Using OHA's [Immunization Resources webpage](#) to request your record. It may take 5 days to get your record.
- Calling 211 for help in languages other than English.

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

You can get your second dose in Oregon even if you got your first dose in another state. You must provide the card showing proof of your first dose that shows which vaccine you were given. If you get your first dose in Oregon but need to get a second dose in another state, keep the card showing proof of your first dose.

Q: I'm pregnant. Can I get a COVID-19 vaccine?

Yes. Pregnant and recently pregnant people are more likely to get severely ill with COVID-19 compared with non-pregnant people. Severe illness from COVID-19 during pregnancy can be avoided by getting fully vaccinated. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends all people ages 12 and older get vaccinated against COVID-19, including people who are pregnant, breastfeeding, trying to get pregnant now or who might become pregnant in the future.

Q: Will I be required to get a vaccine?

Employers may require workers to get vaccinated, with some exceptions. Talk to your employer about whether they require a vaccine. If your employer requires a vaccine but you have a sincerely held religious belief, disability, or health issue that prevents you from getting the vaccine, your employer may need to make an [exception](#) for you.

Q: Where can I get more information?

For more information, go to covidvaccine.oregon.gov (English) or vacunacovid.oregon.gov (Spanish). You can also call 211 or (866) 698-6155 for information in any language.

Document accessibility: For individuals with disabilities or individuals who speak a language other than English, OHA can provide information in alternate formats such as translations, large print, or braille. Contact the Health Information Center at 1-971-673-2411, 711 TTY or COVID19.LanguageAccess@dhs.oha.state.or.us.