



## 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 on March 29, 2021. Here are answers to the most frequently asked questions.

### Q1. Why should I get a COVID-19 vaccine?

A1. 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.

### Q2. Is the COVID-19 vaccine safe?

A2. All COVID-19 vaccines have been tested to make sure they are safe and effective. Tens of thousands of people – including Oregonians – from many backgrounds, ages and communities participated in vaccine testing.

### Q3. Will the vaccine protect me from getting COVID-19?

A3. The COVID-19 vaccines are highly effective at preventing serious disease and hospitalization.

### Q4. What are the COVID-19 vaccine's side effects?

A4. 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.

### Q5. How do the vaccines work?

A5. The vaccines tell our cells how to make a harmless protein. Our immune system sees the proteins and builds antibodies that will remember how to fight the COVID-19 virus if we get infected.

### Q6. I already had COVID-19. Do I still need to get vaccinated?

A6. YES. Even if you've been sick with COVID-19, the vaccine will help protect you. Wait until you have fully recovered from COVID-19 before you get a vaccine.

**Q7. When can I get vaccinated?**

A7. If you work on a farm or at a seafood or food processing facility, you can get vaccinated starting March 29, 2021.

**Q8. Where can I get the vaccine?**

A8. The closest vaccination sites will be different depending on where you live and work. Talk to your employer about whether they are planning to host a vaccination event. If your employer is not hosting a vaccination event, you may be able to go to a local public health clinic or an event sponsored by a community organization. You can also call 211 or (866) 698-6155 for information and assistance in any language.

**Q9. How much will it cost? Do I need to have insurance?**

A9. 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.

**Q10. Do I need to bring identification to prove my eligibility?**

A10. 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.

**Q11. Do I need to provide a social security number to get a vaccine?**

A11. NO. You do NOT need a social security number.

**Q12. 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?**

A12. 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.

**Q13. What is in the COVID-19 vaccines?**

A13. The vaccine does not change your DNA and does not contain a live virus or any animal materials. The Pfizer 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.

**Q14. Are there fetal cells in the vaccine?**

A14. 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. Producing vaccines that rely on these cell lines do not require new fetal cells because the cells reproduce themselves in the laboratory.

**Q15. Do I need a second shot of the vaccine? How will I know when and where to go?**

A15. For the Pfizer 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.

**Q16. 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?**

A16. 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.

**Q17. I'm pregnant. Can I get a COVID-19 vaccine?**

A17. There is no COVID-19 safety data from trials on pregnant women, though studies are happening now. Data that has been reported through the vaccination side effects tracking system shows that no evidence so far of increased risk to a mother or her fetus as a result of the vaccines. The vaccines do not have any live virus. If you are pregnant, you may choose to get the vaccine after talking to a doctor. In Oregon, if you are 16 years or older and are pregnant, you are eligible to get a COVID-19 vaccine starting March 29.

**Q18. Will I be required to get a vaccine?**

A18. 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 [accommodations](#).

**Q19. After I get the vaccine, can I stop wearing a face mask and start gathering with groups of people again?**

A19. After you are fully vaccinated (two weeks after your final vaccine), you can visit indoors with other fully vaccinated people or unvaccinated people from a single household who are at low risk for severe COVID-19 disease without wearing masks or physical distancing. You should still take steps to protect yourself and others by wearing a mask, staying at least 6 feet apart from others, and avoiding crowds when you are in public, around people from multiple households, or around people potentially at risk for COVID-19 disease.

**Q20. Where can I get more information?**

A20. For more information, go to [covidvaccine.oregon.gov](https://covidvaccine.oregon.gov) (English) or [vacunacovid.oregon.gov](https://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@dhsosha.state.or.us](mailto:COVID19.LanguageAccess@dhsosha.state.or.us).