



Key Things to Know About COVID-19

COVID-19 vaccines are safe

All authorized COVID-19 vaccines meet FDA's rigorous standards for safety and effectiveness. Millions of people in the United States have received COVID-19 vaccines. These vaccines will continue undergoing the most intensive safety monitoring in U.S. history to make sure that they are safe. [Learn more.](#)

COVID-19 vaccines cannot make you sick with COVID-19

None of the vaccines being used or tested in the United States contain the live virus that causes COVID-19. This means that they cannot make you sick with COVID-19. [Learn more.](#)

COVID-19 vaccines are effective

Studies showed that COVID-19 vaccines were effective at keeping people from getting COVID-19 and from getting seriously ill even if they got COVID-19. [Learn more.](#)

COVID-19 virus variants and vaccines

Scientists are studying different forms, or variants of the virus that causes COVID-19 to see if the vaccines will work against them. Current data suggest that COVID-19 vaccines authorized and recommended for use in the United States offer protection against most variants. For this reason, COVID-19 vaccines are an essential tool to protect people against COVID-19, including illness caused by the new variants. CDC will continue to monitor the impact these new variants may have on how well the vaccines work. [Learn more.](#)

COVID-19 vaccines are here

The vaccines are available now and as supply increases, more people will be able to receive a vaccine. [Learn more.](#)

COVID-19 vaccines are free

The federal government is providing the vaccine free of charge to all people living in the United States. [Learn more.](#)

Wear a mask after getting the vaccine

After you've been fully vaccinated against COVID-19, you should keep taking precautions in public places like wearing a mask, staying 6 feet apart from others, and avoiding crowds and poorly ventilated spaces until we know more. We're still learning how vaccines will affect the spread of COVID-19.

If you've been fully vaccinated:

- You can gather indoors with fully vaccinated people without wearing a mask.
- You can gather indoors with unvaccinated people from one other household (for example, visiting with relatives who all live together) without masks, unless any of those people or anyone they live with has an increased risk for severe illness from COVID-19.

You do need to wear a mask in public places, when visiting people from multiple households, or when around anyone with an increased risk for severe illness from COVID-19. [Learn more.](#)