

A campaign to increase vaccine confidence while reinforcing basic prevention measures



# Vaccine Confidence

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*Content last reviewed: September 7, 2021*

# Clinical Trials and the Latino Community

- Many of the COVID-19 clinical trials are still recruiting volunteers.
- Latino individuals are almost three times more likely to be hospitalized for COVID-19 than are non-Hispanic White individuals.
- Including the Latino community in COVID-19 clinical trials is essential. Help researchers develop vaccines and treatments that are **safe and effective for all of us**.
- Find out more about volunteering for clinical trials at [combatCOVID.hhs.gov](https://combatCOVID.hhs.gov).



# Vaccine Safety Through Clinical Trials

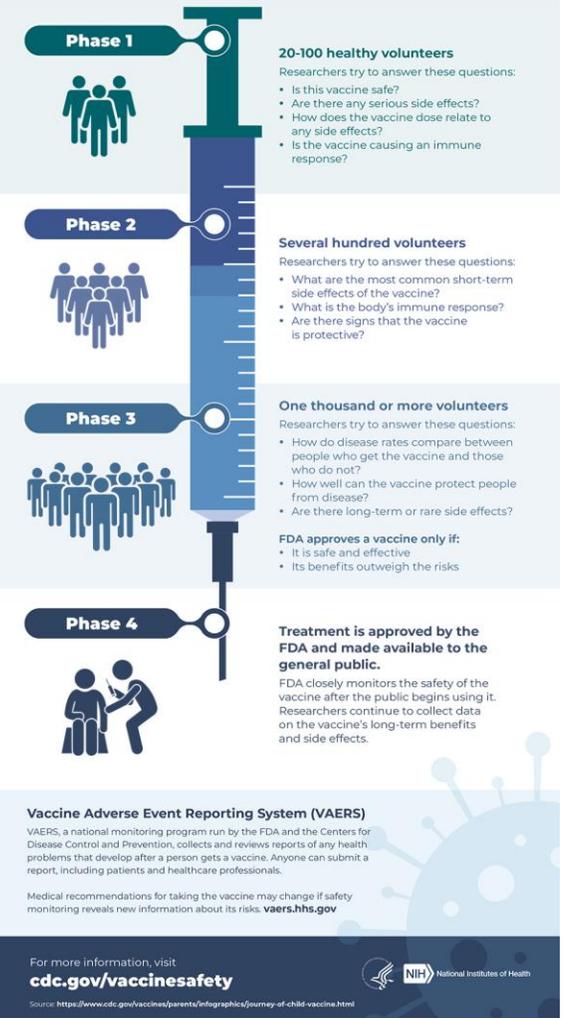
- FDA sets rules for four phases of clinical research, so researchers can learn about the effects of new therapies while keeping volunteers safe. This applies to COVID-19 vaccines.
- Each phase of a clinical trial helps researchers answer several questions, including:
  - **Phase I** — Is this vaccine safe?
  - **Phase II** — What are the most common short-term side effects of the vaccine?
  - **Phase III** — How well can the vaccine protect people from the disease?
  - **Phase IV** — Treatment is approved and made available to the general public.
- Typically, these phases run consecutively, meaning Phase II doesn't start until Phase I is complete. Mass production doesn't start until Phase III is complete.

Learn more about vaccine development on the National Institutes of Health [website](#).

## The Journey of a Vaccine

How a new vaccine is developed, approved, and manufactured

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) sets rules for the four phases of clinical research so that researchers can learn about the effects of new therapies while keeping volunteers safe. This includes trials of new vaccines to protect against infection; researchers always test vaccines with adults first.



# Authorization and Approval Process for COVID-19 Vaccines

- Due to the emergency nature of the COVID-19 pandemic, the FDA has provided emergency use authorizations (EUA) to multiple COVID-19 vaccines.
- Through an EUA, the FDA can authorize a vaccine for immediate use in an emergency **while still ensuring that the same safety measures are being followed** as in any vaccine development process:
  - In the case of the COVID-19 clinical trials, larger trials than usual were run. There have been over 30,000 participants in each Phase III trials.
  - After a Phase III trial is complete for a specific vaccine, the FDA reviews the data and determines whether the vaccines are safe and effective.
  - The FDA has authorized multiple COVID-19 vaccines, with Phase III clinical trials underway for other vaccines.
- The FDA in August 2021 fully approved a COVID-19 vaccine after thoroughly evaluating data on its safety and effectiveness and inspecting manufacturing plants and procedures.



[Learn more](#) about EUAs.

# Currently Available COVID-19 Vaccines

- Vaccines currently available for use against COVID-19 were tested on diverse adult populations, including older adults and communities of color.
- Researchers don't yet know how long these vaccines will protect people.



Get the [latest information](#) on the COVID-19 vaccines.

# How Many Doses Do the COVID-19 Vaccines Require?

- To get the most protection from the vaccines, you need all the recommended doses:
  - The Pfizer-BioNTech and Moderna vaccines require two initial doses.
  - Johnson & Johnson's Janssen vaccine requires one initial dose.
- If you meet the criteria for [having a compromised immune system](#), you should get a third dose of the Pfizer-BioNTech or Moderna vaccine at least 4 weeks after your second dose. An FDA and CDC review of data for Johnson & Johnson's Janssen vaccine will determine whether a second dose is appropriate for people with compromised immune systems.



# COVID-19 Vaccines Are Safe and Effective

## The vaccines are safe.

- Scientists carefully evaluated the COVID-19 vaccines to ensure that they met rigorous safety standards before they were made available to the public.
- Very strict systems are in place to monitor [vaccine safety](#) and side effects after the vaccines are in use.

## The vaccines are effective.

- The vaccines are highly effective against severe illness, hospitalization, and death due to COVID-19, including from the highly contagious Delta variant.
- Scientists are studying [variants of the virus](#) that causes COVID-19 to determine if existing vaccines will protect people against them.

# More on Vaccine Safety

## Safety is the top priority

The FDA and CDC have the highest standards when it comes to ensuring the safety and effectiveness of vaccines. Their process includes the following procedures:

- ✓ Scientists must first test vaccines extensively in medical studies to ensure they are safe and effective.
- ✓ Before the FDA authorizes a vaccine for use among the public, it ensures its safety by independently:
  - Reviewing the data from the medical studies, and
  - Inspecting the manufacturing facilities.
- ✓ Even after a vaccine has been authorized, the FDA and CDC closely monitor vaccine administration to identify even rare side effects or reactions.
- ✓ The FDA and CDC closely review any reports of side effects or reactions and share these facts with the public.

## SAFETY MONITORING IN ACTION

The extremely rare cases of blood clotting and Guillain-Barré Syndrome following Johnson & Johnson's Janssen vaccine and heart inflammation following Pfizer-BioNTech's and Moderna's vaccines—a very small number of cases out of millions of vaccinations—show that the FDA and CDC's vaccine safety monitoring systems work and catch even the rarest reactions.

Thorough investigations have confirmed that all three FDA-authorized vaccines are safe and effective. Medical experts stress that the benefits of receiving any of the COVID-19 vaccines in use in the United States far outweigh any potential risks.

The monitoring systems ensure that doctors are notified to watch for signs of serious reactions, no matter how rare, and are aware of proper courses of treatment.

# How COVID-19 Vaccines Work

- COVID-19 vaccines [help your body develop immunity to the virus that causes COVID-19](#) without you having to get the illness.
- Different types of vaccines work in different ways, but all types of vaccines teach your body how to fight the virus in the future and build immunity.
- Sometimes after getting the vaccine, you may experience side effects, such as a fever. [This is normal and a sign that your body is building protection against the disease.](#)



# Benefits of Receiving a COVID-19 Vaccine

- COVID-19 vaccines help your body build defenses (immunity) to prevent you from getting the disease. If you do get COVID-19, though, the vaccines will help prevent you from getting seriously ill.
- Getting vaccinated can also help protect people around you, particularly people at increased risk for severe illness from COVID-19.
- It's important to understand that infection doesn't necessarily lead to illness. If you're fully vaccinated against COVID-19 and the virus manages to enter your body and begins to multiply—that is, infect you—your immune system will be prepared to quickly recognize the virus and keep it from doing real damage. That's why most people who get infected with COVID-19 despite being vaccinated—so-called breakthrough cases—have no symptoms (asymptomatic) or only mild-to-moderate illness.
- Nearly everyone in the United States who is getting severely ill, needing hospitalization, and dying from COVID-19 is unvaccinated.



# Side Effects of COVID-19 Vaccines

- The COVID-19 vaccines, like other vaccines, can have side effects, but are generally mild and go away in a few days.
- Some side effects [include](#):
  - Pain and swelling in the area where the vaccine was administered
  - Headache, fever, feeling tired, or body aches
- These side effects are signs that the body is building protection against the virus.
- More serious side effects can happen in people with [severe allergic reaction](#) to any ingredient in the vaccines. However, this is very rare.



# Fully Vaccinated

## You're fully vaccinated when:

- It's been 2 weeks after your first dose of Johnson & Johnson's Janssen vaccine, or
- It's been 2 weeks after your second dose of the Pfizer-BioNTech or Moderna vaccines.

## Remember:

- If it's been less than 2 weeks since you were vaccinated, or if you still need to receive your second dose, you're NOT fully protected. Keep taking all the [preventive measures](#) until you are fully vaccinated.
- If you meet the criteria for [having a compromised immune system](#), you should get a third dose of the Pfizer-BioNTech or Moderna vaccine at least 4 weeks after your second dose. An FDA and CDC review of data for Johnson & Johnson's Janssen vaccine will determine whether a second dose is appropriate for people with compromised immune systems.



# According to CDC...

- If you're **fully vaccinated**, you can participate in many of the activities that you did before the pandemic. To maximize protection from the highly contagious Delta variant and prevent possibly spreading it to others, wear a mask inside public places if you're in an [area of substantial or high spread of COVID-19](#).
- If you're **not vaccinated**, you should continue to:
  - ✓ Wear a mask when inside public places.
  - ✓ Keep at least 6 feet part from people who don't live with you and who may not be vaccinated.
  - ✓ Avoid crowds.
  - ✓ Avoid poorly ventilated spaces.
  - ✓ Wash your hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds or use alcohol-based hand sanitizer when soap and water are not available.
- Vaccinated and unvaccinated people must still follow federal, state, local, tribal, and territorial laws, rules, and regulations. That includes public transportation, airport/airplane, local business, and workplace guidance.



# According to CDC... (Cont.)

- People with [compromised immune systems](#) are less able to fight infections. If any of the following apply to you, you may not be fully protected from COVID-19 even if you've received two doses of Pfizer-BioNTech's or Moderna's mRNA COVID-19 vaccine:
  - ✓ You have a [moderate or severe primary immunodeficiency disorder](#), such as DiGeorge syndrome or Wiskott-Aldrich syndrome.
  - ✓ You have an advanced or untreated HIV infection.
  - ✓ You've ever had an organ transplant or had a stem cell transplant within the last 2 years.
  - ✓ You're being treated with corticosteroids or other immunosuppressant medicines for such conditions as arthritis, asthma, or an autoimmune disease, such as lupus, sarcoidosis, inflammatory bowel disease, rheumatoid arthritis, and psoriasis.
  - ✓ You're being treated for cancer.

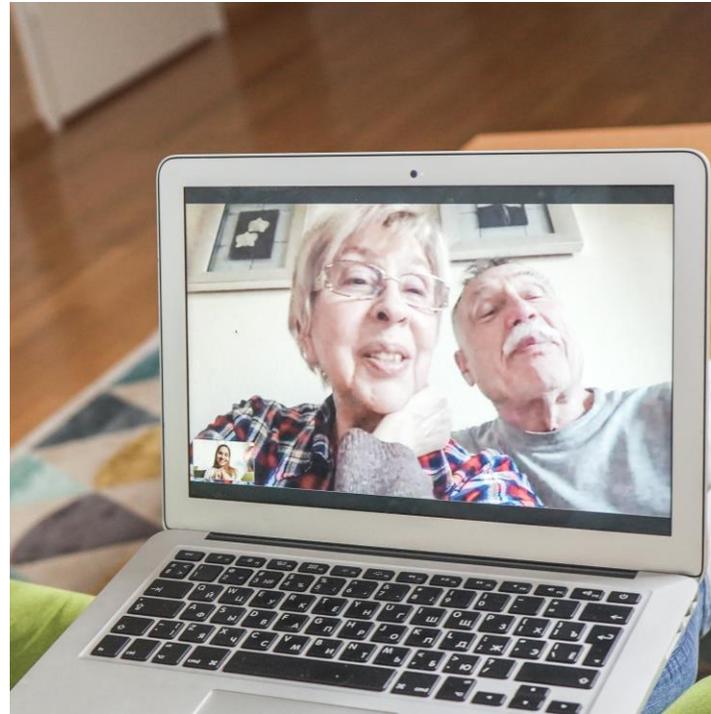
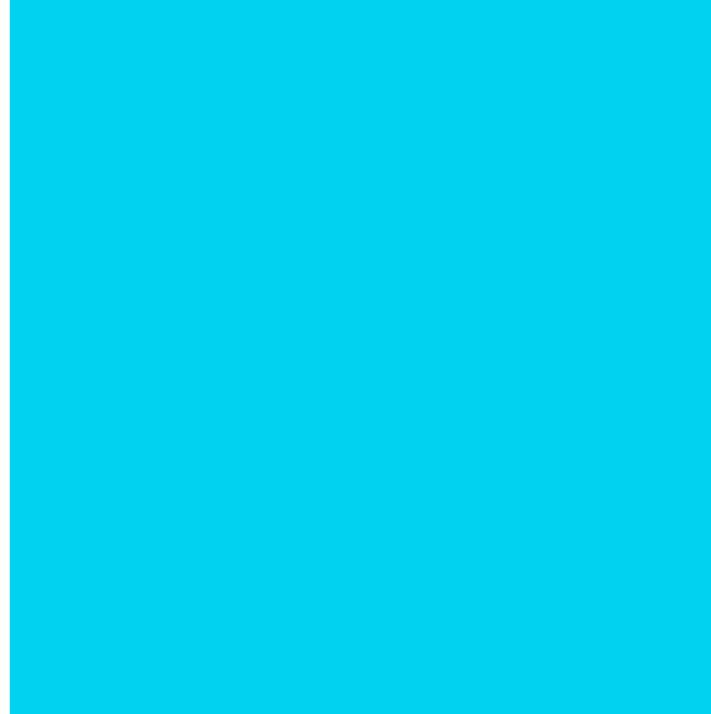
To get the most benefit from the mRNA COVID-19 vaccines, people with compromised immune systems should get a third dose. Wait at least 4 weeks after you get your second dose to get your third dose. An FDA and CDC review of data for Johnson & Johnson's Janssen vaccine will determine whether a second dose is appropriate for people with compromised immune systems.

# How to Answer Frequently Asked Questions About the Vaccines From Your Community



# When Will the Vaccines Be Available to You?

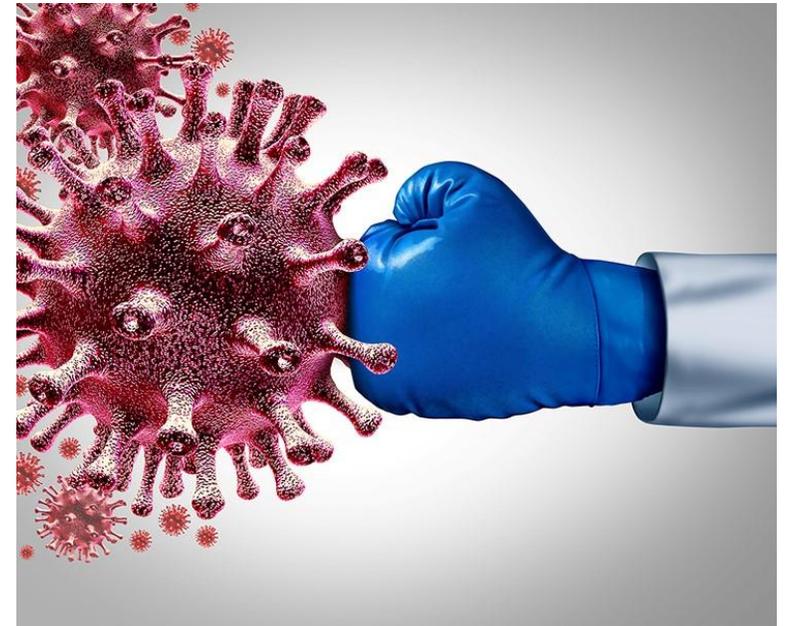
- Vaccines are here now and everyone age 12 and older can get them.
- You have three ways to find vaccines near you:
  - ✓ Go to [vaccines.gov](https://www.vaccines.gov)
  - ✓ Text your ZIP code to 438829
  - ✓ Call 1-800-232-0233



# Can the COVID-19 Vaccines Give You COVID-19?

**No. You can't get COVID-19 from the vaccines.**

- None of the COVID-19 vaccines in use or in testing in the United States uses the live virus that causes COVID-19.
- It [takes time for your body to build protection](#) after any vaccination:
  - The Pfizer-BioNTech and Moderna vaccines need 2 weeks after your second shot to get the most protection.
  - Johnson & Johnson's Janssen vaccine needs 2 weeks after your shot to get the most protection.
  - If you meet the [criteria for having a compromised immune system](#), you should get a third dose of the Pfizer-BioNTech or Moderna vaccine at least 4 weeks after your second dose. An FDA and CDC review of data for Johnson & Johnson's Janssen vaccine will determine whether a second dose is appropriate for people with compromised immune systems.



# How Much Does a COVID-19 Vaccine Cost?

- COVID-19 vaccines are [free for people who live in the United States](#), regardless of your immigration or health insurance status.
- Vaccine providers can be reimbursed by:
  - The patient's public or private insurance provider or,
  - For uninsured patients, by the Health Resources and Services Administration's Provider Relief Fund.
- No one can be denied a vaccine if you're unable to pay a vaccine administration fee.



# Will Everyone Have Access to a COVID-19 Vaccine?

- Federal government partners fully support [equal access to the COVID-19 vaccines](#) and **vaccine distribution sites for everyone, including undocumented immigrants.**
  - It's a moral and public health imperative to ensure that all individuals residing in the United States have access to the vaccine.
  - All individuals, [regardless of immigration status](#), should receive the COVID-19 vaccine once eligible under local distribution guidelines as soon as they can.
- Receiving a COVID-19 vaccine, as well as testing and treatment for COVID-19, doesn't negatively affect your immigration process or your family.
  - If you have questions about how to get a vaccine, then contact the nearest community clinic or your state health department.

# Should People Who Have Gotten Sick With COVID-19 Get a Vaccine?

- Yes. You should get a COVID-19 vaccine even if [you've been sick with COVID-19 before.](#)
- Having COVID-19 may offer some protection or natural immunity against the virus, but scientists still don't know how long that protection lasts and how protected you are from the new variants.
- It's possible for a person who has had COVID-19 to be reinfected and have serious health complications, so [it's better to get vaccinated.](#)



# Can You Stop Wearing a Face Mask After Receiving a Vaccine?

- If you're **fully vaccinated**, you can participate in many of the activities that you did before the pandemic. To maximize protection from the highly contagious Delta variant and prevent possibly spreading it to others, wear a mask inside public places if you're in an **area of substantial or high spread of COVID-19**.
- If you're **not yet vaccinated**, you should continue to:
  - ✓ Wear a mask when inside public places.
  - ✓ Keep at least 6 feet part from people who don't live with you and who may not be vaccinated.
  - ✓ Avoid crowds.
  - ✓ Avoid poorly ventilated spaces.
  - ✓ Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds or use alcohol-based hand sanitizer when soap and water are not available.
- Vaccinated and unvaccinated people must still follow federal, state, local, tribal, and territorial laws, rules, and regulations. That includes public transportation, airport/airplane, local business, and workplace guidance.



# Can You Stop Wearing a Face Mask After Receiving a Vaccine? (Cont.)

- People with [compromised immune systems](#) are less able to fight infections. If any of the following apply to you, you may not be fully protected from COVID-19 even if you've received two doses of Pfizer-BioNTech's or Moderna's mRNA COVID-19 vaccine:
  - ✓ You have a [moderate or severe primary immunodeficiency disorder](#), such as DiGeorge syndrome or Wiskott-Aldrich syndrome.
  - ✓ You have an advanced or untreated HIV infection.
  - ✓ You've ever had an organ transplant or had a stem cell transplant within the last 2 years.
  - ✓ You're being treated with corticosteroids or other immunosuppressant medicines for such conditions as arthritis, asthma, or an autoimmune disease, such as lupus, sarcoidosis, inflammatory bowel disease, rheumatoid arthritis, and psoriasis.
  - ✓ You're being treated for cancer.

To get the most benefit from the mRNA COVID-19 vaccines, people with compromised immune systems should get a third dose. Wait at least 4 weeks after you get your second dose to get your third dose. An FDA and CDC review of data for Johnson & Johnson's Janssen vaccine will determine whether a second dose is appropriate for people with compromised immune systems.

# Can You Stop Wearing a Face Mask After Receiving a Vaccine? (Cont.)

You should also continue to follow current COVID-19 prevention measures until your health care provider says it's safe for you to stop:

- Wear a mask that covers your nose and mouth around people you don't live with and when inside public places.
- Stay at least 6 feet apart from people you don't live with.
- Avoid crowds and poorly ventilated indoor spaces.
- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds or use hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol when soap and water aren't available.



# How to Slow the Spread

Vaccines are a very important step to help us stop this pandemic, until you are fully vaccinated you should continue to:

- [Wear a mask](#) that covers your nose and mouth inside public places (even fully vaccinated people in [areas of substantial or high spread of COVID-19](#) should wear a mask inside public places to maximize protection from the highly contagious Delta variant and prevent possibly spreading it to others).
- Stay at least [6 feet](#) from people you don't live with in both indoor and outdoor spaces.
- Avoid crowds and [poorly ventilated indoor spaces](#).
- Wash your hands with soap and water for 20 seconds or use [hand sanitizer](#) with at least 60% alcohol if soap and water aren't available.



# Resources in Spanish on the CDC Website

## Vaccinate With Confidence Information

- [Vaccines FAQs](#)
- [Vaccines in Development](#)
- [Vaccine Planning](#)
- [Vaccine Benefits](#)
- [Priority Audiences for Vaccines](#)
- [Ensuring Vaccine Safety](#)
- [Ensuring Vaccine Effectiveness](#)
- [Vaccinate with Confidence](#)



**Vaccinate with Confidence**  
*Protect communities. Empower families. Stop myths.*

Child vaccination coverage remains high nationally, and most parents are confident in the safety and effectiveness of vaccines. However, the spread of myths and misinformation has put some communities at risk. When misleading information circulates, vaccination coverage can fall and increase the risk for outbreaks of vaccine-preventable diseases.

### A New Approach

Vaccinate with Confidence is CDC's strategic framework to strengthen vaccine confidence and prevent outbreaks of vaccine-preventable diseases in the United States.

Vaccinate with Confidence will strengthen public trust in vaccines by advancing three key priorities:

#### Protect Communities

Vaccination rates remain strong nationally, but pockets of under-vaccination persist in some locations, putting communities at risk for outbreaks. CDC will support states, cities, and counties to find these communities and take steps to protect them.

#### Empower Families

Trust in vaccines is not built through a top-down approach, but through millions of conversations between parents, doctors, nurses, pharmacists, and community members. CDC will expand resources for health care professionals to support effective vaccine conversations.

#### Stop Myths

To stop misinformation from eroding public trust in vaccines, CDC will work with local partners and trusted messengers to improve confidence in vaccines among at-risk groups; establish partnerships to contain the spread of misinformation; and reach critical stakeholders to provide clear information about vaccination and the critical role it plays in protecting the public.

Vaccinate with Confidence combines CDC's existing work with new investments, partnerships, and activities to protect communities at risk and strengthen public trust in the life-saving protection of vaccines.



Image courtesy of the American Academy of Pediatrics and SELF Magazine.

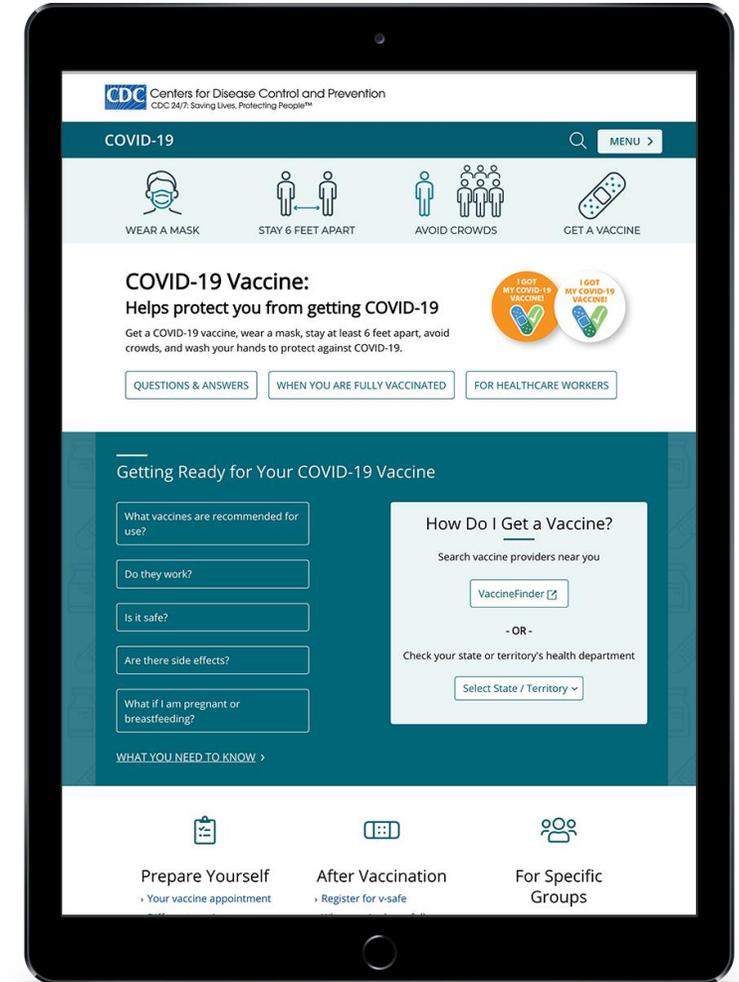
# COVID-19 Educational Resources in Spanish on the CDC Website

- Síntomas de la enfermedad del coronavirus
  - Videos
  - Posters
- Print Resources



# Other Resources on the CDC Website

- [V-safe](#): A smartphone-based app that uses text messaging and web surveys to provide personalized health check-ins after you receive a COVID-19 vaccine.
- [CDC COVID Data Tracker](#): Maps, charts, and data provided by CDC.
- [Pre-Vaccination Checklist](#) for COVID-19
- COVID-19 Vaccination Toolkits:
  - [Vaccination Communication](#)
  - [Recipient Education](#)
  - [Long-Term Care Facility](#)
  - [Vaccine Storage and Handling](#)



Visit [CDC](#) for additional information and resources.

**Thank you**



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