

# THE COVID-19 **VACCINE** FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

**All South Carolinians 6+ months are eligible to get the vaccine.**

If you are fully vaccinated, you can feel secure in engaging in most activities. Fully vaccinated people can participate in activities without wearing a mask or physically distancing, except where required by federal, state, local, tribal, or territorial laws, rules, and regulations, including local business and workplace guidance.

**Below are answers to commonly asked questions about COVID-19 vaccination. You can call 1-855-4-SCDHEC (1-855-472-3432) or visit [scdhec.gov/vaxfacts](https://www.scdhec.gov/vaxfacts) if you have more questions.**

## Who can get the vaccine?

All South Carolinians 6+ months are now eligible for COVID-19 vaccines.

## Will more than one dose of COVID-19 vaccine be required?

The Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine requires two shots 21 days apart. The Moderna vaccine requires two shots 28 days apart. You may receive both shots of the same type of vaccine or “mix-and-match.” Additional boosters help make your resistance to the virus stronger.

After receiving your first shot, you will receive a paper immunization record. It will include the vaccine you received, date and location, and date when your next shot is needed. Make your second appointment while you’re at your first appointment.

## Do I need a booster dose?

Yes. The new boosters are “bivalent” meaning they will help protect you against the original COVID virus and the latest known variants.

## Why do I need the COVID-19 vaccine?

Experts believe that getting a COVID-19 vaccine helps to keep you from getting seriously ill even if you do get COVID-19 after being vaccinated. Getting vaccinated may also help to protect those around you, particularly people at increased risk for severe illness from COVID-19.

## Can I get the COVID-19 vaccine if I have recently had COVID?

Yes, you may get the COVID-19 vaccine when you have completed your isolation period. You should be vaccinated regardless of whether you’ve already had COVID-19. Even after you have recovered from COVID-19, and even if you are vaccinated, it is possible that you could be infected with the virus that causes COVID-19.

## How can I get a vaccine?

Use our vax locator map at [vaxlocator.dhec.sc.gov](https://vaxlocator.dhec.sc.gov) to find the contact location for a facility near you or call 1-855-4-SCDHEC (1-855-472-3432) between 7 a.m. and 7 p.m. seven days a week.

## Are COVID-19 vaccines safe?

Yes. COVID-19 vaccines are safe and effective. No vaccine will be released until it has passed the same tough scientific and clinical testing that all vaccines in development are held to.

## What are the side effects of the vaccine?

Any vaccine or medication can cause side effects. These are typically minor, such as a sore arm or low-grade fever, and go away within a few days. Like all vaccines, COVID-19 vaccines are not approved until clinical trials show they are safe and effective. Safety is the top priority. Results from the first COVID-19 vaccines show no serious side effects. You can't get COVID-19 from the vaccine.

## How much will it cost me to get a vaccine?

The federal government is providing the vaccine free of charge. Vaccination providers can be reimbursed for vaccine administration fees by the patient's public or private insurance company. No one can be denied a vaccine if they are unable to pay a vaccine administration fee, and no one should receive a bill for receiving the vaccine.

Anyone who has received their vaccine and has a question about any charges, fees or associated costs should contact their vaccine provider.

## Do I need to wear a mask and physically distance from others after being vaccinated?

Fully vaccinated people can feel secure in taking part in activities without wearing a mask or physically distancing, except where required by federal, state, local, tribal, or territorial laws, rules, and regulations, including local business and workplace guidance.