

COVID-19 Vaccine

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

When will patients get the vaccine?

At this point, there are limited supplies of the vaccine. Sixteenth Street will be vaccinating people using the instructions and vaccines given to us by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the State of Wisconsin. This means that health care workers will be vaccinated first. It is very important that they be vaccinated so they can continue to care for our patients in a safe way. We expect to have a larger supply of the vaccine in future months that will allow us to vaccinate our patients. As soon as the vaccine is available for patients, we will communicate to all patients through email, text, social media, and our website.

We hope you all will consider getting vaccinated. Again, it's the best way to protect ourselves and those we love. We encourage you to learn more about the vaccine and watch for vaccine updates on our website here: <https://sschc.org/our-care/coronavirus/>

Do Sixteenth Street medical providers recommend we get the vaccine?

Yes! Sixteenth Street medical providers are excited for the vaccine and recommend all patients who are able get vaccinated! Check out videos from our medical providers on social media explaining their reasons.

Is the vaccine safe?

Yes, the vaccine is safe. The vaccine was tested in trials with thousands of Americans and no serious safety concerns were reported. The FDA takes these approvals very seriously. In addition, the science to develop this vaccine is NOT new. Scientists have been doing research on this type of vaccine for many years with previous outbreaks caused by related viruses. This research gave us a big head start. Safety is the top priority!

The CDC has set up a specific program (V-Safe) to monitor concerns that may come after receiving the vaccine. You can register online. Someone from the CDC will call to check on you at intervals after getting the vaccine. Your personal information will not be stored or shared. <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/safety/vsafe.html>

Can I get COVID from the vaccine?

No, you cannot. It does NOT contain the live virus that causes COVID-19. The vaccine gives our body practice recognizing the virus and safely developing an immune response against it.

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/different-vaccines/mRNA.html>

Are there side effects from the vaccine?

About 20% of people do experience side effects, such as fever and nausea, for one to two days. This is completely normal and means that both your immune system and the vaccine are doing their job. All results from the trials show a quick recovery from symptoms and no serious side effects. If your symptoms worsen, contact your medical provider.

Is the vaccine effective?

Yes! Trials showed the Pfizer vaccine was 95% effective and the Moderna vaccine was 94.1% effective. Being protected by the vaccine greatly outweighs the risk of getting COVID.

How many doses do I need?

Right now, the vaccine requires two doses separated by three to four weeks. The first and second dose must be from the same brand. It will take your body up to one month to develop the protection it needs.

How long does the immunity last?

At this point, we do not yet know how long immunity will last. This is something important that experts are currently trying to learn more about. The CDC will keep the public informed as new evidence becomes available.

Do I still need to wear a mask and social distance?

YES, we need to use all the tools in our toolbox to keep ourselves, our loved ones, and our communities safe. The vaccine is just one tool. CONTINUE wearing a mask, washing your hands, and staying at least 6 feet away from others.

Who should get vaccinated?

The vaccine is currently approved for people 16 years and older. Everyone should talk to their doctor before getting vaccinated.

Who should not get vaccinated?

Unfortunately, right now some people should NOT get the vaccine:

- People with a severe allergy to a vaccine ingredient or to any vaccine.
- People younger than 16 years old.
- People who have COVID-19 symptoms or are isolated because of an exposure RIGHT NOW. You can get vaccinated after you have recovered or are out of isolation.

Can I get the vaccine if I'm pregnant?

People who are pregnant should talk to their doctor or midwife about the vaccine. The vaccine will be available to pregnant staff who are eligible.

Can I get the vaccine if I have an immune issue or disease?

People who have immune issues or diseases should talk to their doctors about getting the vaccine.

I've already had COVID, do I need to get the vaccine?

We recommend that all individuals who are able get the vaccine, even if you have already been diagnosed with COVID. There is no way to know whether or not you have enough immunity from your past exposure, and it is best to protect yourself with the vaccine.

How much will it cost to get vaccinated?

The federal government will cover the cost of the vaccine. It is possible that some places will charge an office or visit fee. We recommend asking before you get a vaccine.