

Latest info on COVID-19 vaccines at VA health facilities

As of February 17, 2021, we've provided **1 million** Veterans with their first COVID-19 vaccine dose. We've provided **329,685** Veterans with their second dose. Both authorized COVID-19 vaccines require 2 doses to be fully effective.

Keep reading to learn more about how our local VA health facilities continue to offer vaccines to more Veterans as quickly and safely as they can. And find out what you need to know before you get a COVID-19 vaccine.

An update on how local VA facilities offer vaccines

We still have a limited amount of vaccines. So, we continue to follow our phased plan based on VA and [CDC COVID-19 risk criteria](#). Our goal is always to do the most good for the most people.

Many VA health facilities now offer COVID-19 vaccines to Veterans who meet these 2 criteria:

The Veteran already receives care at VA, **and**

The Veteran is at least 75 years old or has health problems that increase risk for severe illness from COVID-19. We base risk on VA and [CDC COVID-19 risk criteria](#).

Some facilities also now offer vaccines to more Veterans, including Veterans 65 years and older.

Please know that different facilities are at different phases of our vaccine plan. Facilities will continue to adjust their local plans based on these factors:

How much vaccine is currently available at the facility

The needs of the local facility and community

The number of Veterans in each risk group who want a vaccine

The strict requirements for how the facility must store and handle the vaccine

If you're a Veteran who already receives care at VA, your facility will contact you when you can get a vaccine. To learn about your facility's current plan, [find the facility's website](#). Once you're on the site, go to **Health care services**, then **COVID-19** in the menu.

A note for primary and secondary caregivers enrolled in our Program of Comprehensive Assistance for Family Caregivers: We'll tell you if you can get a vaccine when we invite the Veteran to get one.

How your facility will contact you

Your VA health facility may invite you to get a COVID-19 vaccine at a large vaccination event or by appointment. You may receive an invite by phone, email, or text message. If you're eligible and you want a vaccine, we encourage you to respond. But make sure the phone call, email, or text is really from VA before you provide any personal information or click on any links.

Text messages will always come from **53079**. Emails will always come from a **va.gov** email address.

Note: Severe weather is causing challenges with vaccine deliveries at some facilities. If your area has severe weather, please call to confirm your appointment before going to the facility. [Find your VA facility's phone number](#)

What to know before you get a COVID-19 vaccine

You'll need to wait at least 14 days between getting a COVID-19 vaccine and any other vaccine (like a flu or shingles vaccine). This is because there is currently limited information on the safety and effectiveness of getting other vaccines at the same time as a COVID-19 vaccine. We follow CDC guidance on how far apart to space vaccines. As more information becomes available, this guidance may change. Your health care provider can help you decide the best vaccination schedule for you and

your family.

If you're currently sick from COVID-19, you should wait until you've recovered, and you're finished with isolation to get a vaccine. Data from clinical trials show that the 2 authorized COVID-19 vaccines are safe in people who've been infected with the virus that causes COVID-19 in the past.

If you've received passive antibody therapy to treat COVID-19, you should wait at least 90 days before getting a COVID-19 vaccine.

If you've had a severe allergic reaction to any ingredients in a COVID-19 vaccine, you shouldn't get the COVID-19 vaccine. Before you get a vaccine, tell the provider giving you the vaccine about all your health conditions.

To learn more about what you should know before getting either of the 2 authorized vaccines, including a list of ingredients, read the FDA fact sheets.

Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine fact sheets:

[FDA Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine fact sheet \(PDF\)](#)

[FDA Pfizer-BioNTech fact sheets in more languages](#)

Moderna COVID-19 vaccine fact sheets:

[FDA Moderna COVID-19 vaccine fact sheet \(PDF\)](#)

[FDA Moderna COVID-19 vaccine fact sheets in more languages](#)

Go to the CDC website to [learn more about COVID-19 vaccines and allergic reactions](#).

Go to our main VA vaccine information page to [learn more about COVID-19 vaccines at VA](#).