



## **New Standard COVID Vaccine FAQ 2023-2024**

**Question: Do I need to wait after getting the flu vaccine or another vaccine before getting the COVID-19 vaccine?**

**Answer:** No, there is no recommended waiting period before receiving the COVID-19 vaccine. You may also get the flu vaccine and the COVID-19 vaccine together at the same visit. Administration of other vaccines at the same time has generally shown the same side effects when given alone or with other vaccines.

**Question: Can I get a COVID-19 infection directly because of the vaccine?**

**Answer:** No, because the vaccine does not contain the live virus of COVID-19, you cannot get sick from the vaccine. The COVID-19 vaccines are designed to generate an immune response in your body, so it is able to fight the virus. Sometimes this process may cause symptoms of fever, chills, or body aches but this means your body is building protection against the virus and should only last a few days.

**Question: How is this year's vaccine different from the bivalent vaccine?**

**Answer:** This year's vaccine will target a different strain of COVID-19 that is seen to be more common in the population. Just like the flu vaccine the COVID-19 vaccines are updated to better protect you from the new strains that arise.

**Question: What are the most common side effects when receiving COVID-19 vaccine?**

**Answer:** The most common side effects include pain and swelling in the arm where the injection was given, fever, chills, headache, and tiredness. The symptoms usually only last a few days. This is normal as your body is creating a response to make sure you are protected.

**Question: Where can I get the vaccine?**

**Answer:** Most retail pharmacies have the vaccine and usually you can set up an appointment online or over the phone. For more information on where to get your COVID-19 vaccine go to the websites below.

- [vaccinefinder.org](https://vaccinefinder.org)
- [vaccines.gov/get-vaccinated/where](https://vaccines.gov/get-vaccinated/where)
- [molinahealthcare.com](https://molinahealthcare.com)



**Question: Can I get the new COVID-19 vaccine if I recently received a booster of COVID-19?**

**Answer:** Yes, you can still get the new vaccine, but it has to at least be 8 weeks after your last dose.

**Question: Can my child get the COVID vaccine?**

**Answer:** Yes, the COVID-19 vaccine is approved for those 6 months and older.

**Question: I already had COVID-19 and recovered. Should I still get the vaccine?**

**Answer:** Yes, you should still get the vaccine due to severe health risks that are associated with COVID-19. You may become reinfected later on and you want to make sure your body is able to provide protection against the virus.

**Question: Can I get the COVID-19 vaccine if I am pregnant?**

**Answer:** Yes, if you are pregnant, you may safely get the vaccine. Those that are pregnant are more likely to get very sick compared to those that are not pregnant. It also may put you at an increased risk of complications during pregnancy if you become sick with COVID-19. Getting the vaccine can protect you and others around you and keep your baby healthy.

**Question: Can I get the COVID-19 vaccine if I am breastfeeding?**

**Answer:** Yes, those that are breastfeeding may get the COVID-19 vaccine. Receiving the vaccine allows for some protection to pass through to the baby through the breastmilk. This would allow for protection before your infant may receive the vaccine if they are less than 6 months old.

**Question: Does the new COVID-19 vaccine work against the current variant?**

**Answer:** Yes, the new COVID-19 vaccines cover the variant XBB 1.5. The virus that causes COVID-19 is always changing so it is best to receive the updated vaccine so it may restore protection and provide enhanced protection against the variants currently responsible for most COVID-19 infections.



**Question: Is the COVID-19 vaccine safe?**

**Answer:** Yes, the vaccine is safe. The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has a process for ensuring that all vaccines are safe before they are approved for use in the United States. This process includes clinical trials and approval of both safety and effectiveness. All vaccines that have been made available have undergone this process for approval for both safety and effectiveness.

**Question: What vaccine options are currently available?**

**Answer:** The vaccines that are currently available are the new monovalent vaccines that cover the most common variant. The bivalent vaccines and the original vaccines from Pfizer and Moderna are no longer available for use. If you are eligible for a booster, you would receive the new vaccine. If you have never received a COVID-19 vaccine and would like to get one, you will now receive the 2 doses series of the new Moderna or Pfizer vaccines that are now available.

**Question: Do I have to pay for the vaccine?**

**Answer:** No, with your insurance coverage the vaccine will come at no cost to you.

**References**

1. [cdc.gov/coronavirus](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus)
2. [cdc.gov/vaccines/hcp/acip-recs/vacc-specific/covid-19.html](https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/hcp/acip-recs/vacc-specific/covid-19.html)
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