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- [COVID toolkit on the intranet](#)

## CAREGIVERS: Ohio COVID-19 Vaccine Program (primary series)

**Q: Where can I get the COVID-19 vaccine as a caregiver?**

**A:** Caregivers can receive the vaccine at Occupational Health locations in Ohio or through various other locations throughout the area including local retailers and pharmacies. [Read more.](#)

**Q: How do I schedule a vaccine appointment(s)?**

**A:** Caregivers can schedule their vaccine appointments in MyChart or call 216.448.4117 Tuesday – Friday from 9 a.m. – 4 p.m. ET or walk in to an Occupational Health location in Ohio.

**Q: How can I update my medical record at Cleveland Clinic if I received the vaccine elsewhere?**

**A:** If you were vaccinated outside of a Cleveland Clinic vaccination and your vaccination is not reflected in your MyChart account, take a clear photo of your CDC vaccination card and email the photo to [COVID19@ccf.org](mailto:COVID19@ccf.org). Include your full name, date of birth and employee ID in the body of the email.

**Q: What should I do if I have side effects to the vaccine?**

**A:** If you are concerned about any symptoms, or side effects related to the vaccine, contact the Caregiver COVID-19 Hotline at 216.445.8246. All caregivers who receive the vaccine are also encouraged to enroll in [v-safe, a monitoring program managed by the Center for Disease Control and Prevention \(CDC\)](#).

**Q: If I have side effects from the vaccine that cause me to miss work, will I need to use my PTO?**

**A:** If a caregiver is feeling ill and needs to stay home, they will use PTO for the time away from work.

**Q: Will Cleveland Clinic be requiring caregivers to get the COVID-19 vaccine?**

**A:** On Sept. 9, President Biden announced several COVID-19 vaccination mandates and executive orders that directly impact businesses and health systems across the country, including Cleveland Clinic. We are awaiting the federal guidelines for us to be in compliance.

To prepare us, we are beginning a **COVID-19 Vaccine Validation Program**. The program will collect the vaccination status of every caregiver throughout our U.S. locations. All caregivers at U.S. locations are required to tell Cleveland Clinic your vaccination status by Nov. 15, 2021. [Read more.](#)

**Q: Is the COVID-19 vaccine effective against the Delta variant?**

**A:** Completing the COVID-19 vaccination series continues to be the best protection against severe illness or death for all COVID-19 strains, including the Delta variant. Many of the increasing cases and hospitalizations in Ohio and across the country are attributable to the Delta variant, which is twice as transmissible as the original COVID-19 strain.

**Q: Do I need to continue masking and social distancing after getting the vaccine?**

**A:** The CDC has [issued guidance](#) on public health recommendations for those who are fully vaccinated from COVID-19. Individuals are considered fully vaccinated two weeks after receiving the second dose in a two-dose series (such as the Pfizer or Moderna vaccines) or two weeks after a single-dose vaccine, like the Johnson & Johnson vaccine.

In order to maximize protection from the Delta variant and prevent possibly spreading it to others, those who are fully vaccinated should wear a mask indoors in public if you are in an area of substantial or high transmission. Those who are not yet vaccinated should continue to mask as well.

It's important to note that this guidance does not apply to healthcare settings, and our current masking policies remain in place. All patients, visitors and caregivers at Cleveland Clinic will still be screened and required to wear a face mask in our facilities, even if they are fully vaccinated.

**Q: Can I still get COVID-19 even if I am vaccinated?**

**A:** While the COVID-19 vaccines are safe and effective, no vaccine is 100% effective. In fact, breakthrough cases (when someone tests positive for COVID-19 more than two weeks after they're fully vaccinated) are expected. Breakthrough infections are more common in indoor settings with large groups of people, the elderly and in individuals with compromised immune systems.

The vaccines greatly reduce the risk of severe illness or death from COVID-19. Despite the presence of breakthrough infections, the majority of COVID-19 hospitalizations and deaths occur in unvaccinated individuals. We recommend everyone who is eligible receive a COVID-19 vaccine.

**Q: What should I do if I am vaccinated and have COVID-19 symptoms?**

**A:** Whether or not you have been vaccinated, call the Caregiver COVID-19 Hotline at 216.445.8246 if you have symptoms or may have been exposed. Florida caregivers should call 800.546.4149.

## Booster information & third dose for immunocompromised

**Q: Will I need a COVID-19 vaccine booster?**

**A:** The FDA and CDC have authorized a booster dose of the three COVID-19 vaccines (Pfizer, Moderna, and Johnson & Johnson) for eligible adults to offer added protection against serious outcomes from COVID-19 and to maximize ongoing protection against COVID-19 infection.

**Q: Who is eligible to receive a booster dose?**

**A:** Eligibility, dosage, and timing of boosters varies by individual COVID-19 vaccine product. Not all people are eligible to receive a booster dose at this time. Factors that determine eligibility include age, health, living situation, job, how long ago you were originally vaccinated, and which vaccine you received. [Read more](#).

**Q: How can I schedule a booster vaccine?**

A: Caregivers are able to schedule their Moderna or Pfizer booster through MyChart or by calling 216.448.4117 at any of our vaccination locations. Our schedulers are available Tuesday – Friday from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. [Read more](#).

**Q: Can I receive a different booster from the original vaccine product I received?**

A: The FDA and CDC have authorized individuals to receive a booster dose that is a different brand than their initial vaccines. For example, someone who received an initial dose of the Johnson & Johnson vaccine, can receive a Pfizer or Moderna booster dose.

**Q: Is a booster dose different than a third dose or people with compromised immune systems?**

A: Yes. For people with compromised immune systems, the third dose in the primary series must be given at least 28 days after a patient's second dose. Whereas a booster dose is given at least six months following the second dose of the Pfizer or Moderna COVID-19 vaccine. [Read more](#).

**Q: Is there a difference between the third dose of Moderna for immunocompromised individuals and a booster of Moderna?**

A: Yes, Moderna immunocompromised third dose is 100 mcg and is given in the primary series, 28 days after the second dose whereas Moderna booster dose is 50 mcg and given at least six months following the second dose.

**Q: Is there a difference between the third dose of Pfizer for immunocompromised individuals and a booster of Pfizer?**

A: Yes, the third dose in the primary series for immunocompromised individuals is 28 days after the second dose whereas a booster is given at least six months following the second dose. It is the same product and dosage amount.

## PATIENTS & GENERAL PUBLIC: Ohio COVID-19 Vaccine Program

**Q: Which Cleveland Clinic locations are scheduling appointments for COVID-19 vaccines?**

A: [Visit our website](#) for an up-to-date list of locations where patients can schedule their COVID-19 vaccine appointments.

**Q: Should my child/teenager be vaccinated?**

A: The Pfizer vaccine has been authorized for use in individuals as young as 5 years old. [Read more](#). The other two vaccines authorized for emergency use by the FDA, Moderna and Johnson & Johnson (Janssen), are authorized for individuals age 18 and over. All three vaccines have been authorized for emergency use by the FDA and have been determined to be safe and effective

We encourage all eligible individuals to get vaccinated as soon as they can. Vaccinating everyone who is eligible is important to slowing the spread of COVID-19.

Vaccines can be scheduled via [MyChart](#) or by calling 216.448.4117. Our schedulers are available Tuesday - Friday from 9 a.m. – 4 p.m. ET. You may also be offered a COVID-19 vaccine for your child at many regularly scheduled pediatric appointments.

Teenagers under the age of 18 who are coming to a Cleveland Clinic vaccination site must be accompanied by a parent or guardian or provide written consent from their parent or guardian in order to receive the vaccine.

## General Vaccine Information

**Q: How many doses of the vaccine are needed initially?**

**A:** The COVID-19 mRNA Pfizer and Moderna vaccines require two doses. The Johnson & Johnson vaccine is administered in one dose. The vaccines are not interchangeable. Each person receiving a vaccine must get both doses with the same vaccine product from the same manufacturer. Pfizer is typically scheduled at a 21-day interval whereas Moderna is scheduled at 28. The CDC's Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices allow for up to 42 days between the first and second dose of COVID-19 vaccines. See above for booster information.

**Q: If I already had COVID-19, am I eligible to receive the vaccine?**

**A:** Yes, for those who have not been previously vaccinated, the CDC guidance recommends getting vaccinated following their COVID19 infection – once symptoms have improved.

If a person has a breakthrough infection (contracting COVID-19 following the primary vaccination series), they can receive the booster at least six months following the second dose of Pfizer after their illness (acute symptoms from COVID) has resolved.

**Q: If I have had a prior allergic reaction to the flu vaccine, should I receive a vaccine for COVID-19?**

**A:** You are still eligible to receive the COVID-19 vaccine. Because of reports of anaphylactic reactions in persons vaccinated outside of clinical trials, it is recommended that individuals who have had a severe allergic reaction to any previous vaccine discuss the nature of their reaction with their provider before scheduling a COVID-19 vaccine.

**Q: What side effects can I expect from the COVID-19 vaccine?**

**A:** The mRNA vaccines stimulate your immune system; therefore, you may experience some mild to moderate symptoms including fever, muscle/joint aches, headache, fatigue, chills, nausea, vomiting and diarrhea. You may also have local symptoms at the injection site including pain, swelling, redness at injection site and localized lymph node swelling.

The Johnson & Johnson vaccine, while not an mRNA vaccine, has similar side effects including injection site reactions: pain, redness of the skin and swelling, as well as general side effects: headache, feeling very tired, muscle aches, nausea and fever.

**Q: Is there a difference between the first and second dose of the vaccines?**

**A:** You are more likely to experience side effects and symptoms after the second dose. Most side effects reported in the clinical trials were mild to moderate. Side effects typically occur 24-48 hours after vaccine administration and can last 24-48 hours. Note: The Johnson & Johnson vaccine is administered in one dose.

**Q: What if I have a severe reaction, such as anaphylaxis, to a COVID-19 vaccine?**

**A:** You should not receive the second dose of the COVID-19 vaccine until you have discussed your reaction with your provider. You may be referred to an allergist for additional evaluation.

**Q: If I am pregnant, breastfeeding, or trying to conceive can I get the COVID-19 vaccine?**

**A:** The CDC recommends COVID-19 vaccination for all people who are pregnant, breastfeeding, trying to get pregnant now or might become pregnant in the future. We encourage you to talk to your Ob/Gyn to help make a decision about receiving the vaccine. [Read more.](#)

## Science Behind the COVID-19 Vaccine

**Q: What scientific data is available about the safety and effectiveness of the COVID-19 vaccines?**

**A:** You can find the available data [here](#).

**Q: Where can I find more information about vaccine safety and effectiveness?**

- Learn more about the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine on the [FDA website](#)
- Learn more about the Moderna COVID-19 vaccine on the [FDA website](#)
- Learn more about the Johnson & Johnson COVID-19 vaccine on the [FDA website](#)

**Q: How long does the immunization last?**

**A:** After a person receives the COVID-19 vaccination, we do not know how long protection against infection lasts beyond two months. Also, we do not know if vaccination protects against transmitting the virus to other people who are without immunity. For these reasons, vaccine recipients must continue to mask, maintain social distance and practice hand hygiene.