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12 SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

13 COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO

14 UNLIMITED JURISDICTION

15 UNITED SF FREEDOM ALLIANCE,
16 BHANU VIKRAM, CARSON R.
17 SCHILLING, CHRISTA L. FESTA,
18 CHRISTIANNE T. CROTTY, DENNIS M.
CALLAHAN, JR., FAIHING CHEUNG,
and JESSICA KWOK-BO LINDSEY,

19 Plaintiffs,

20 vs.

21 CITY AND COUNTY OF SAN
22 FRANCISCO, a municipal corporation and
administrative division of the State of
23 California, et al., and Does 1 through 100,
inclusive,

24 Defendants.
25
26
27
28

Case No. CGC-22-597428

**EXHIBIT C TO REQUEST FOR JUDICIAL
NOTICE IN SUPPORT OF DEFENDANTS
CITY AND COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO,
ET AL.'S DEMURRER TO THE SECOND
AMENDED COMPLAINT FOR VIOLATION
OF CIVIL RIGHTS AND DECLARATORY
AND INJUNCTIVE RELIEF**

Hearing Date: June 21, 2022
Hearing Judge: Judge Richard B. Ulmer
Time: 9:30 a.m.
Place: Dept. 302

Date Action Filed: January 4, 2022
Trial Date: None set

EXHIBIT C

TO

**REQUEST FOR JUDICIAL NOTICE IN SUPPORT OF DEFENDANTS CITY AND
COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO, ET AL.'S DEMURRER TO SECOND AMENDED
COMPLAINT FOR VIOLATION OF CIVIL RIGHTS AND DECLARATORY AND
INJUNCTIVE RELIEF**



COVID-19

Safety of COVID-19 Vaccines


Updated May 9, 2022

What You Need to Know

- COVID-19 vaccines are **safe and effective**.
- Millions of people in the United States have received COVID-19 vaccines under the most intense safety monitoring in US history.
- CDC recommends you get a [COVID-19 vaccine](#) as soon as possible.

Hundreds of Millions of People Have Safely Received a COVID-19 Vaccine

More than 579 million doses of COVID-19 vaccine had been given in the United States from December 14, 2020, through May 9, 2022. To view the current total number of COVID-19 vaccinations that have been administered in the United States, please visit the [CDC COVID Data Tracker](#).

COVID-19 vaccines are **safe and effective**. COVID-19 vaccines were evaluated in tens of thousands of participants in clinical trials. The vaccines met the Food and Drug Administration's (FDA's) rigorous scientific standards for safety, effectiveness, and manufacturing quality needed to support emergency use authorization (EUA). [Learn more about EUAs in this video.](#) 

The Pfizer-BioNTech, Moderna, and Johnson & Johnson/Janssen COVID-19 vaccines will continue to undergo the most intensive safety monitoring in US history. This monitoring includes using both [established and new safety monitoring systems](#) to make sure that COVID-19 vaccines are safe.

Common Side Effects

Some people have side effects after getting their COVID-19 vaccine, while others might have no side effects. Side effects may affect the ability to do daily activities, but they should go away within a few days. Learn more about [common side effects after COVID-19 vaccination](#).

Serious Safety Problems Are Rare

In rare cases, people have experienced serious health events after COVID-19 vaccination. Any health problem that happens after vaccination is considered an adverse event. An adverse event can be caused by the vaccine or can be caused by a coincidental event not related to the vaccine, such as an unrelated fever, that happened following vaccination.

To date, the systems in place to monitor the safety of these vaccines have found four [serious types of adverse events following COVID-19 vaccination](#), with evidence that suggests, although rare, a link to certain types of COVID-19 vaccinations

that were administered. They are:

Anaphylaxis

Anaphylaxis is a severe type of allergic reaction with symptoms such as hives, difficulty breathing, low blood pressure, or significant swelling of the tongue or lips. **Anaphylaxis after COVID-19 vaccination is rare.** [Learn more about COVID-19 vaccines and allergic reactions, including anaphylaxis.](#)

Thrombosis with Thrombocytopenia Syndrome (TTS)

Thrombosis with thrombocytopenia syndrome (TTS) is a rare but serious adverse event that causes blood clots or issues with clotting. **TTS after COVID-19 vaccination is rare.** [Learn more about COVID-19 vaccines and adverse events, including TTS.](#)

Myocarditis and Pericarditis

Myocarditis is inflammation of the heart muscle, and pericarditis is inflammation of the outer lining of the heart. **Myocarditis and pericarditis after COVID-19 vaccination are rare.** [Learn more about COVID-19 vaccines and adverse events, including myocarditis and pericarditis.](#)

Guillain-Barré Syndrome (GBS)

Guillain-Barré Syndrome (GBS) is a rare disorder where the body's immune system damages nerve cells, causing muscle weakness and sometimes paralysis. **GBS after COVID-19 vaccination is rare.** [Learn more about COVID-19 vaccines and adverse events, including GBS.](#)

Reports of Death Are Rare

Reports of death after COVID-19 vaccination are rare. FDA requires healthcare providers to report any death after COVID-19 vaccination to the [Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System \(VAERS\)](#) [\[link\]](#), even if it's unclear whether the vaccine was the cause. **Reports of adverse events to VAERS following vaccination, including deaths, do not necessarily mean that a vaccine caused a health problem.** CDC and FDA review reports of death following COVID-19 vaccination and update information as it becomes available. [Learn more about adverse events, including reports of death, after COVID-19 vaccination.](#)

Benefits of Vaccination Outweigh the Risks

Serious side effects that could cause a long-term health problem are extremely unusual following any vaccination, including COVID-19 vaccination. The benefits of COVID-19 vaccination outweigh the known and potential risks.

CDC continues to closely monitor the safety of COVID-19 vaccines. Everyone who receives a COVID-19 vaccine can also participate in safety monitoring by [enrolling themselves, their children ages five years and older](#), or other dependents in a smartphone-based system called **v-safe** and completing health check-ins after COVID-19 vaccination.

Have you experienced a side effect following COVID-19 vaccination?

Please [report it to VAERS](#) [\[link\]](#). In addition, enrolling yourself or your dependent in **v-safe** allows you to easily report to CDC how you are feeling after getting a COVID-19 vaccine.

More Information

[ACIP COVID-19 Vaccines Safety Technical Sub-Group \(VaST\)](#)

[COVID-19 Vaccine Safety Publications](#)

[VaST Subgroup Technical Report](#)

[v-safe After Vaccination Health Checker](#)

[Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System \(VAERS\)](#)

Last Updated May 9, 2022

Learn More About COVID-19 Vaccines from the FDA

Learn about the evidence supporting FDA-approval of Comirnaty and FDA emergency use authorization of COVID-19 vaccines

Everyone ages 12 and older can get a COVID-19 vaccine booster shot. Read more [booster information \(https://www.fda.gov/emergency-preparedness-and-response/coronavirus-disease-2019-covid-19/covid-19-frequently-asked-questions#biologics\)](https://www.fda.gov/emergency-preparedness-and-response/coronavirus-disease-2019-covid-19/covid-19-frequently-asked-questions#biologics) or [view eligibility \(/emergency-preparedness-and-response/coronavirus-disease-2019-covid-19/do-i-qualify-covid-19-vaccine-booster-and-which-one\)](https://www.fda.gov/emergency-preparedness-and-response/coronavirus-disease-2019-covid-19/do-i-qualify-covid-19-vaccine-booster-and-which-one).

COVID-19 Vaccines: 4 Facts



[Español \(/consumers/articulos-en-espanol/aprenda-mas-sobre-las-vacunas-contra-el-covid-19-de-la-fda\)](/consumers/articulos-en-espanol/aprenda-mas-sobre-las-vacunas-contra-el-covid-19-de-la-fda)

[中文 \(/consumers/consumer-updates/congmeiguoshipinheyaowuguanlijulejieyouguan2019xinguanfeiyanyimiaodegengduoxinxi\)](/consumers/consumer-updates/congmeiguoshipinheyaowuguanlijulejieyouguan2019xinguanfeiyanyimiaodegengduoxinxi)

[한국의 \(/consumers/consumer-updates/misigpumuiyaggug-fdaeulobuteo-kobideu-19-covid-19-baegsine-daehayeo-deo-manhi-baeusibsio\)](/consumers/consumer-updates/misigpumuiyaggug-fdaeulobuteo-kobideu-19-covid-19-baegsine-daehayeo-deo-manhi-baeusibsio)

[Tagalog \(/consumers/consumer-updates/matuto-ng-higit-pa-tungkol-sa-bakuna-sa-covid-19-mula-sa-fda\)](/consumers/consumer-updates/matuto-ng-higit-pa-tungkol-sa-bakuna-sa-covid-19-mula-sa-fda)

[Tiếng Việt \(/consumers/consumer-updates/tim-hieu-them-ve-vac-xin-covid-19-tu-fda\)](/consumers/consumer-updates/tim-hieu-them-ve-vac-xin-covid-19-tu-fda)

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration approved [Comirnaty \(/vaccines-blood-biologics/comirnaty\)](/vaccines-blood-biologics/comirnaty) for the prevention of COVID-19 in individuals 16 years of age and older.

- Package insert - [purple cap \(/media/151707/download\)](/media/151707/download) or [gray cap \(/media/154834/download\)](/media/154834/download)
- [Frequently asked questions \(/vaccines-blood-biologics/qa-comirnaty-covid-19-vaccine-mrna\)](/vaccines-blood-biologics/qa-comirnaty-covid-19-vaccine-mrna)

The FDA approved [Spikevax \(/vaccines-blood-biologics/spikevax\)](/vaccines-blood-biologics/spikevax) for the prevention of COVID-19 in individuals 18 years of age and older.

- [Patient package insert \(/media/155762/download\)](/media/155762/download)
- [Frequently asked questions \(/vaccines-blood-biologics/qa-spikevax-covid-19-vaccine-mrna\)](/vaccines-blood-biologics/qa-spikevax-covid-19-vaccine-mrna)

Three COVID-19 vaccines are authorized for emergency use. The vaccines are:

[Pfizer BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine \(/emergency-preparedness-and-response/coronavirus-disease-2019-covid-19/comirnaty-and-pfizer-biontech-covid-19-vaccine\)](/emergency-preparedness-and-response/coronavirus-disease-2019-covid-19/comirnaty-and-pfizer-biontech-covid-19-vaccine)

- [Fact sheet \(/media/144414/download\)](/media/144414/download) for recipients
- [Frequently asked questions \(/emergency-preparedness-and-response/coronavirus-disease-2019-covid-19/pfizer-biontech-covid-19-vaccine-frequently-asked-questions\)](/emergency-preparedness-and-response/coronavirus-disease-2019-covid-19/pfizer-biontech-covid-19-vaccine-frequently-asked-questions)

[Moderna COVID-19 Vaccine \(/emergency-preparedness-and-response/coronavirus-disease-2019-covid-19/spikevax-and-moderna-covid-19-vaccine\)](/emergency-preparedness-and-response/coronavirus-disease-2019-covid-19/spikevax-and-moderna-covid-19-vaccine)

- [Fact sheet \(/media/144638/download\)](/media/144638/download) for recipients
- [Frequently asked questions \(/emergency-preparedness-and-response/coronavirus-disease-2019-covid-19/moderna-covid-19-vaccine-frequently-asked-questions\)](/emergency-preparedness-and-response/coronavirus-disease-2019-covid-19/moderna-covid-19-vaccine-frequently-asked-questions)

[Janssen \(sometimes called Johnson & Johnson\) COVID-19 Vaccine \(/emergency-preparedness-and-response/coronavirus-disease-2019-covid-19/janssen-covid-19-vaccine\)](/emergency-preparedness-and-response/coronavirus-disease-2019-covid-19/janssen-covid-19-vaccine)

- [Fact sheet \(/media/146305/download\)](/media/146305/download) for recipients
- [Frequently asked questions \(/emergency-preparedness-and-response/coronavirus-disease-2019-covid-19/janssen-covid-19-vaccine-frequently-asked-questions\)](/emergency-preparedness-and-response/coronavirus-disease-2019-covid-19/janssen-covid-19-vaccine-frequently-asked-questions)

Emergency use authorization (EUA) allows these vaccines to be distributed in the U.S. [Learn more \(/vaccines-blood-biologics/vaccines/emergency-use-authorization-vaccines-explained\)](/vaccines-blood-biologics/vaccines/emergency-use-authorization-vaccines-explained) about EUAs for COVID-19 vaccines from the FDA's Center for Biologics Evaluation and Research (CBER).

Who authorizes COVID-19 vaccines for emergency use?

The FDA is the regulatory authority with oversight of the safety, effectiveness and quality of vaccines that are used in the U.S., including COVID-19 vaccines. Career scientists and doctors at the FDA determine whether to approve or authorize COVID-19 vaccines after they thoroughly analyze and evaluate the data submitted by the manufacturer related to safety, effectiveness and manufacturing quality.

During a public health emergency like the current COVID-19 pandemic, the FDA may issue an EUA when the agency's scientific experts have determined, among other things, that the known and potential benefits of the vaccine outweigh its known and potential risks.

For Comirnaty, the company submitted a Biologics License application (BLA) to FDA which built on the extensive data and information previously submitted that supported the EUA. This included preclinical and clinical data and information, as well as details of the manufacturing process, vaccine testing results to ensure vaccine quality, and inspections at the sites at which the vaccine is made.

FDA employees are also fathers, mothers, daughters, sons, sisters, brothers and more. They and their families are directly impacted by the work they do.

Why should I get a COVID-19 vaccine?

When you get a COVID-19 vaccine, you are choosing to protect yourself and make a difference for your children, parents, grandparents, and other loved ones. Millions of people in the U.S. have already received a COVID-19 vaccine. For a community to be fully protected, most community members need to get the vaccine. Getting vaccinated to prevent COVID-19 will help protect you from COVID-19, and it may also protect the people around you.

How do I get a COVID-19 vaccine?

Search [vaccines.gov](https://www.vaccines.gov) (<https://www.vaccines.gov/search/>), text your ZIP code to 438829, or call 1-800-232-0233 to find COVID-19 vaccine locations near you in the U.S. In some states, information may be limited while vaccination providers and pharmacies are being added. Contact your [state health department](https://www.cdc.gov/publichealthgateway/healthdirectories/healthdepartments.html) (<https://www.cdc.gov/publichealthgateway/healthdirectories/healthdepartments.html>) to find additional vaccination locations in your area.

FDA-authorized or approved COVID-19 vaccines are distributed for free by states and local communities. You cannot buy COVID-19 vaccines online. You do not need to pay any out-of-pocket costs to get a COVID-19 vaccine — not before, during, or after your appointment. If someone asks you to pay for your vaccine, it is either a scam or a mistake.

Do COVID-19 vaccines work?

Yes. All FDA-approved and FDA-authorized COVID-19 vaccines prevent COVID-19 and serious health outcomes that COVID-19 can cause, including hospitalization and death. The FDA thoroughly evaluated and analyzed safety and effectiveness data for Comirnaty, the approved COVID-19 vaccine and those vaccines authorized for emergency use.

In evaluating requests for emergency use authorization for COVID-19 vaccines, the FDA determined that the available data provided clear evidence that the known and potential benefits outweigh the known and potential risks of each vaccine.

In evaluating the data and information included in the BLA for Comirnaty, the FDA determined that the vaccine is safe and effective and meets our rigorous standards for approval.

Do COVID-19 vaccines work against variants of the virus that causes COVID-19?

The available information suggests that the approved vaccine and the authorized vaccines protect the American public against COVID-19 caused by currently circulating strains of the virus that causes COVID-19.

Some variants are more contagious and spread more easily from person-to-person than the original virus that causes COVID-19. To help slow the spread of COVID-19, get a COVID-19 vaccine when it is available to you.

What safety information is available about COVID-19 vaccines?

The FDA evaluated data from clinical studies that included tens of thousands of people for Comirnaty, the FDA-approved COVID-19 vaccine, and for each of the COVID-19 vaccines authorized for emergency use.

Authorized COVID-19 Vaccines

The FDA has authorized three vaccines for emergency use because the data from clinical studies clearly showed that the known and potential benefits of the FDA-authorized COVID-19 vaccines outweighed the known and potential risks.

Approved COVID-19 Vaccine

The data to support the decision to approve Comirnaty builds on extensive data and information that supported the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine EUA, including information about the vaccine's safety and effectiveness. The safety of Comirnaty was evaluated in individuals 16 years of age and older, approximately 22,000 of whom received the vaccine and 22,000 of whom received placebo. More than half of the clinical trial participants were followed for safety follow-up for at least four months after the second dose. After issuance of the EUA, clinical trial participants were unblinded in a phased manner over a period of months to offer placebo recipients the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine. Overall, in blinded and unblinded follow-up, approximately 12,000 vaccine recipients have been followed for at least 6 months.

Allergic Reactions

Allergic reactions, including cases of anaphylaxis have happened after some people received a COVID-19 vaccine. Anaphylaxis is a severe, life-threatening allergic reaction that happens within seconds or minutes of exposure to an allergen. Because of this remote chance of severe allergic reaction or anaphylaxis, health care providers may ask you to stay at the place where you received your COVID-19 vaccine for monitoring for 15 to 30 minutes.

Myocarditis and Pericarditis Following Vaccination with Comirnaty, Moderna and Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccines

Post-authorization safety surveillance data pertaining to myocarditis (inflammation of the heart muscle) and pericarditis (inflammation of the tissue surrounding the heart) demonstrate increased risks of myocarditis and pericarditis, particularly within 7 days following the second dose of the Comirnaty, Moderna, and Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccines. For each of these vaccines, the risk is higher in males under 40 years of age than in females or older males.

The Prescribing Information for Comirnaty and the Fact Sheets for Healthcare Providers Administering Vaccine (Vaccination Providers) for the Moderna and Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccines include a warning about the risk of myocarditis and pericarditis, and the Fact Sheet for Recipients and Caregivers includes information about myocarditis and pericarditis. The Fact Sheets for Recipients and Caregivers note that vaccine recipients should seek medical attention right away if they experience any of the following symptoms after vaccination:

- Chest pain
- Shortness of breath
- Feelings of having a fast-beating, fluttering, or pounding heart

Based on available information of the confirmed reported cases of myocarditis or pericarditis, most affected individuals were hospitalized and most responded well to treatment and rest, and their symptoms went away quickly.

FDA and CDC are monitoring the reports, collecting more information, and will follow-up to assess longer-term outcomes over several months.

Guillain Barré Syndrome Following Vaccination with Janssen COVID-19 Vaccine

Guillain Barré syndrome (a neurological disorder in which the body's immune system damages nerve cells, causing muscle weakness and sometimes paralysis) has occurred in some people who have received the Janssen COVID-19 Vaccine. In most of these people, symptoms began within 42 days following receipt of the Janssen COVID-19 Vaccine. The chance of having this occur is very low. The Fact Sheet for Healthcare Providers Administering Vaccine (Vaccination Providers) includes a warning about the suggested increased risk of Guillain Barré Syndrome (GBS) and the Fact Sheet for Recipients and Caregivers includes information about GBS. The Fact Sheet for Recipients and Caregivers notes that vaccine recipients should seek medical attention right away if they experience any of the following symptoms after receiving the Janssen COVID-19 Vaccine:

- Weakness or tingling sensations, especially in the legs or arms, that's worsening and spreading to other parts of the body
- Difficulty walking
- Difficulty with facial movements, including speaking, chewing, or swallowing
- Double vision or inability to move eyes
- Difficulty with bladder control or bowel function

Blood Clots in Combination with Low Blood Platelets Following Vaccination with Janssen COVID-19 Vaccine

As a result of ongoing safety monitoring, on April 13, 2021, the FDA and CDC recommended a temporary pause in the use of Janssen COVID-19 Vaccine, due to reports of a serious and rare type of blood clot in combination with low blood platelets (blood cells that help your body stop bleeding). This serious condition is called thrombosis with thrombocytopenia syndrome (TTS).

On April 23, 2021, the FDA and CDC [lifted the recommended pause \(/news-events/press-announcements/fda-and-cdc-lift-recommended-pause-johnson-johnson-janssen-covid-19-vaccine-use-following-thorough\)](#) on the Janssen COVID-19 Vaccine after this thorough safety review. The [Fact Sheet for Healthcare Providers Administering Vaccine \(https://www.fda.gov/media/146304/download\)](#) (Vaccination Providers) to include a warning about the risk of blood clots with low blood platelets. The warning notes that people who developed blood clots with low blood platelets after receiving the Janssen COVID-19 Vaccine, symptoms began about 1 to 2 weeks after vaccination. Reporting of these blood clots with low levels of platelets has been highest in females ages 18 through 49 years. The [Fact Sheet for Recipients and Caregivers \(https://www.fda.gov/media/146305/download\)](#) also includes information about blood clots with low blood platelets after receiving the Janssen COVID-19 Vaccine and notes that vaccine recipients should seek medical attention right away if they experience any of the following symptoms after receiving the Janssen COVID-19 Vaccine:

- Shortness of breath

- Chest pain
- Leg swelling
- Persistent abdominal pain
- Severe or persistent headaches or blurred vision
- Easy bruising or tiny blood spots under the skin beyond the site of the injection

These may not be all the possible side effects of Janssen COVID-19 Vaccine. Serious and unexpected side effects may occur.

Can I see the safety and effectiveness data that support the the approval of Comirnaty and the emergency use authorization of the COVID-19 vaccines?

The FDA is publicly sharing information about COVID-19 vaccines so you can see the evidence for yourself. The FDA's analysis of clinical trial data, including but not limited to demographic information about the clinical study volunteers, is available in the Summary Basis for Regulatory Action for Comirnaty and the decision memos that explain FDA's basis for authorizing each vaccine for emergency use. In addition, for the authorized vaccines, an FDA Briefing Document for the Vaccines and Related Biological Products Advisory Committee is available, as noted below.

COVID-19 Vaccine	FDA Briefing Document	Advisory Committee Meeting Webcast	FDA Decision Memorandum
Comirnaty	Not applicable	Not applicable	Comirnaty (https://www.fda.gov/media/151733/download) (August 23, 2021)
Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine	Pfizer-BioNTech (/media/144245/download)	December 10, 2020 Webcast (/advisory-committees/advisory-committee-calendar/vaccines-and-related-biological-products-advisory-committee-december-10-2020-meeting-announcement)	Pfizer-BioNTech (/media/144416/download) (December 11, 2021) Pfizer-BioNTech (/media/148542/download) (May 10, 2021)
Moderna COVID-19 Vaccine	Moderna (/media/144434/download)	December 17, 2020 Webcast (/advisory-committees/advisory-committee-calendar/vaccines-and-related-biological-products-advisory-committee-december-17-2020-meeting-announcement)	Moderna (/media/144673/download)
Janssen (sometimes called Johnson & Johnson) COVID-19 Vaccine	Janssen (/media/146217/download)	February 26, 2021 Webcast (/advisory-committees/advisory-committee-calendar/vaccines-and-related-biological-products-advisory-committee-february-26-2021-meeting-announcement)	Janssen (/media/146338/download)

Does the FDA monitor COVID-19 vaccine safety after authorization

and approval?

Yes. The FDA and the CDC have several systems in place to continually monitor COVID-19 vaccine safety. These systems, called “passive surveillance” and “active surveillance” systems, rapidly detect and investigate potential safety problems. Systems such as the [Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System](https://vaers.hhs.gov/) (VAERS) and CDC’s text-based v-safe (<https://vsafe.cdc.gov/>) system, which receive reports of adverse events following vaccination, are examples of passive surveillance systems. The FDA’s [BEST Initiative](https://www.bestinitiative.org/) (<https://www.bestinitiative.org/>) [↗](http://www.fda.gov/about-fda/website-policies/website-disclaimer) (<http://www.fda.gov/about-fda/website-policies/website-disclaimer>) is an example of an active surveillance system, which analyzes information occurring in millions of individuals recorded in large data systems to investigate any safety signals that are identified by VAERS or v-safe.

Related Information

- FDA: [COVID-19 Vaccine Safety Monitoring](/vaccines-blood-biologics/safety-availability-biologics/covid-19-vaccine-safety-surveillance) (</vaccines-blood-biologics/safety-availability-biologics/covid-19-vaccine-safety-surveillance>)
- FDA COVID-19 Vaccine Information: <http://www.fda.gov/covid19vaccines> (</emergency-preparedness-and-response/coronavirus-disease-2019-covid-19/covid-19-vaccines>)


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ALL****[COVID19.CA.GOV](https://covid19.ca.gov)****Your actions save lives**

Vaccines

Last updated May 4, 2022 at 6:12 PM

Second booster shot now available for some people

The CDC now recommends a second booster shot for people over 50, those who are immune-compromised, and those who got the Johnson & Johnson vaccine.

[See if you're eligible](#) .

Get vaccinated – it's safe and effective.

Vaccination is the most important tool to end the COVID-19 pandemic.

On this page:

- > [How to get vaccinated](#)
- > [Who can get vaccinated](#)

- › [How COVID-19 vaccines work](#)
- › [Vaccines and variants](#)
- › [Booster shots and additional doses](#)
- › [Digital vaccine record](#)
- › [Side effects](#)
- › [Questions and answers](#)

How to get vaccinated:

My Turn

Check myturn.ca.gov or call [1-833-422-4255](tel:1-833-422-4255) to book an appointment or find a walk-in site near you.

Go to My Turn

Vaccines.gov

Use the CDC's [Vaccines.gov](https://vaccines.gov) to book an appointment or find a walk-in site near you.

Go to Vaccines.gov

You can also check with your healthcare provider or local pharmacy.



Who can get vaccinated

Any Californian aged 5 and up can get vaccinated.

If you have health insurance, vaccination is free. If you're uninsured, ask your vaccination site if they provide free shots.

Your immigration status does not matter. No one will ask about your immigration status when you get vaccinated.

Vaccinations for kids

Pfizer's COVID-19 vaccine is [authorized for kids aged 12 and up](#) . A lower dose of the Pfizer vaccine is now [authorized for kids aged 5 to 11](#) .

Both are safe and effective in protecting children from COVID-19.

How COVID-19 vaccines work



Vaccines are highly effective against severe COVID-19. No fully-vaccinated person died due to COVID-19 during clinical trials of the vaccines.

COVID-19 vaccines teach our immune systems how to fight the virus that causes COVID-19. It is still possible to get COVID-19 after vaccination. But your symptoms will likely be much less severe, helping you avoid hospitalization and death.

What we know

- Vaccinations can prevent nearly all COVID-19-related hospitalizations and deaths. [Post-vaccination cases](#) [↗](#) are much less severe.
- Vaccinations reduce the spread of COVID-19.
- COVID-19 vaccines are effective against many [variants](#) [↗](#) of the virus.
- People with weakened immune systems may not be protected even if fully vaccinated.



What we're still learning

- How long COVID-19 vaccine protection lasts

Once you're vaccinated

When you're fully vaccinated, you can return to activities you did before the pandemic. But stay aware of public health recommendations that still apply to you.

Read more from CDPH:

- [Get the Facts on Vaccines](#) 
- [Which Vaccine is Right for You](#) 



Vaccines and variants

Vaccination has proven very effective against COVID-19 variants. The best thing we can do to limit virus spread and mutation is to:

- Get vaccinated
- Get your booster if you're eligible

See [variants now present in California](#).

More info about COVID-19 variants from CDPH:

- [Tracking Variants](#) 
- [Fact Sheet: Omicron Variant](#) 

Booster shots and additional doses

Booster shots

Booster shots are now available for everyone 12 and older.

Get a booster shot as soon as you're eligible:

- If you got a **Moderna** or **Pfizer** vaccine, get a booster shot after 5 months
- If you got a **Johnson & Johnson** vaccine, get a booster shot after 2 months

Your booster shot can be a different vaccine brand than you got in your original series. A Pfizer or Moderna booster is strongly advised for those who got the Johnson & Johnson vaccine. Those aged 12-17 can only get a Pfizer booster.

To book your booster shot or find a walk-in clinic, visit [My Turn](#).

See why the CDC urges you to [stay up to date with your vaccines](#).

Read [more booster facts](#) and [booster questions and answers](#) from CDPH.

Second booster shots

The CDC now recommends a second booster shot for:

- People over 50
- Those who are immune-compromised
- Those who got the Johnson & Johnson vaccine

You must have gotten your first booster dose at least 4 months ago. [See](#)

[if you're eligible](#) ↗.

Additional doses

Additional doses of Pfizer or Moderna are available for those with compromised immunity.

This includes people who:


- Get **active cancer treatment** for tumors or cancers of the blood
- Got an **organ transplant** and are taking medicine to suppress the immune system
- Got a **stem cell transplant** within the last 2 years or are taking medicine to suppress the immune system
- Have **moderate or severe primary immunodeficiency** (such as DiGeorge syndrome, Wiskott-Aldrich syndrome)
- Have **advanced or untreated HIV infection**
- Get **active treatment with high-dose corticosteroids** or other drugs that suppress immune response

Children aged 5-11 with these conditions can get an additional dose of Pfizer.

Talk to your doctor to see if getting an additional dose is right for you. If you meet these criteria, you can book your shot at [My Turn](#) ↗.


See [questions and answers about additional doses](#) ↗.

Digital vaccine record

You can now get a digital copy of your vaccination record. This is called the [Digital COVID-19 Vaccine Record](#)  (DCVR). It's available to you if:

- You got vaccinated in California, and
- Your information matches what is recorded in the state's immunization systems.

To get your vaccine record:

- Go to myvaccinerecord.cdph.ca.gov 
- Enter your:
 - Name
 - Date of birth
 - Email or phone number you gave when vaccinated
 - Create a four-digit PIN

This digital copy can be used as proof of vaccination.


See [Frequently Asked Questions](#)  to learn more about your digital vaccine record.

If you have trouble getting your record

If you couldn't get your vaccine record, you may need to correct or add some information.

What might prevent you from getting your COVID-19 vaccination record:

- Your vaccination site does not report to the state's immunization systems
- Your vaccination site didn't report your vaccination
- The information you entered doesn't match your record in the registry

To correct or update your vaccine record, start an online chat with My Turn's [Virtual Assistant](#) .

Read CDPH's [Vaccine Record Guidelines & Standards](#) for more information.

Side effects

After COVID-19 vaccination, you may have some mild side effects. These are normal signs that your body is building immunity. More serious side effects rarely happen.

Mild side effects

Common mild side effects include:

- Soreness, redness, or swelling where you got the shot
- Feeling tired, headache, muscle pain, chills, fever, or nausea

Side effects may affect your ability to do daily activities, but should go away in a few days. Some people have no side effects.

Rare but serious side effects

Blood clots

Rarely, women under 50 who get the Johnson & Johnson vaccine have a risk of blood clots with low platelets. This risk is not seen in other COVID-19 vaccines. Read CDPH's [Fact Sheet: Johnson & Johnson COVID-19 Vaccine Benefits and Risks](#) [PDF](#).

Myocarditis and pericarditis

Some young people have developed inflammation of heart muscle or

membrane after getting Pfizer or Moderna. Despite this, the CDC says the benefits of COVID-19 vaccination outweigh the risks.

People aged 12-39 may consider waiting 8 weeks between doses of Moderna or Pfizer. More time between doses may reduce the risk of myocarditis in males aged 12-39.

Read more in these CDPH fact sheets:

- [Pfizer COVID-19 Vaccine Benefits and Risks](#) [PDF](#)
- [Moderna COVID-19 Vaccine Benefits and Risks](#) [PDF](#)
- [COVID-19 Vaccine Timing: 2nd Dose](#) [PDF](#)

Reporting side effects of vaccines

If you have experienced a side effect after COVID-19 vaccination, you can report it to:

- [VAERS](#) [↗](#) (Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System)
- [V-safe](#) [↗](#) (After Vaccination Health Checker)

When to call the doctor

In most cases, discomfort from pain or fever is a normal sign that your body is building protection. Contact your doctor or healthcare provider if:

- The redness or tenderness where you got the shot gets worse after 24 hours
- Your side effects are worrying you or do not seem to be going away after a few days

If you get a COVID-19 vaccine and you have a severe reaction, seek immediate medical care by calling 911. Learn more about [COVID-19 vaccines and rare severe allergic reactions](#) [↗](#).

Read more in the CDC's [Possible Side Effects After Getting a COVID-19 Vaccine](#) [↗](#).

Questions and answers

Getting vaccinated

How many COVID-19 vaccine doses do I need, and



Can I mix and match COVID-19 vaccines from



What if I was vaccinated outside the United States?



How much will the COVID-19 vaccine cost?



Do I need to be a California resident to get a



How do I cancel or reschedule my vaccine



I've already had COVID-19. Should I get a COVID-19



Can I get vaccinated against COVID-19 while I am



Will COVID-19 vaccine sites be accessible?



How do I get a COVID-19 vaccine at home if I am



How do I get transportation to a vaccine site?



What to expect after vaccination

Will I need a booster vaccination?



What is acceptable as proof of full vaccination?



What does it mean to be “fully vaccinated”?



Will the COVID-19 vaccine make me test positive for



How is my privacy protected if I take the COVID-19



Should I keep my COVID-19 vaccination record



If I get a booster shot or additional dose, will it show



Vaccination for children

Do providers need parental consent before



Why should I vaccinate my child?



My child has had reactions to other vaccines. Should



Can children who have pre-existing conditions like



Will my child have to get vaccinated to attend in-



Why did it take longer for the COVID-19 vaccine to



Vaccinations for employees

I'm an employer and want to help my employees get



Can an employer require COVID-19 vaccination for



Are people with certain jobs required to be



Vaccine limitations

If I get a COVID-19 vaccine, will I still need a flu



**Are there certain populations who should not get a
COVID-19 vaccine? What about people with**



If I'm pregnant or breastfeeding, should I get the



How long should I wait to get the vaccine after I've



Can I get a COVID-19 vaccine at the same time as



Vaccine choices

Will I have a choice between the various COVID-19



Are the COVID-19 vaccines FDA-approved?



Are the COVID-19 vaccines mandatory?



Do I need to be vaccinated to visit a healthcare



How can I convince my family and friends to take a



Did you find what you were looking for?

Stay informed

Yes No

- CDPH: [COVID-19 Vaccine Action Plan](#)
- CDPH: [COVID-19 \(Coronavirus Disease 2019\) Vaccines](#)
- CDPH: [California COVID-19 Vaccination Program](#)
- CDC: [COVID-19 Vaccines](#)
- CDC: [Key Things to Know About COVID-19 Vaccines](#)
- CDC: [COVID-19 Vaccination](#)

FOR ALL

Hotlines and local info

[Social media sharing](#)

[Safe Schools For All](#)

[Vaccinate All 58](#)

[Safer At Work](#)

[CA Notify](#)

[My Turn](#)

COVID-19 hotline

1-833-422-4255

M-F 8AM-8PM, Sa-Su 8AM-5PM

[CA.gov](#)

[Department of Public Health](#)

[Governor's Newsroom](#)

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Part of [San Francisco COVID-19 Vaccine Tracker](#)

Core Guidance for COVID-19

COVID-19 facts and how you can to protect yourself and your community.

Get a flu vaccine during the COVID-19 pandemic.

We need to stop the spread of flu so that our healthcare workers have time to care for COVID-19 patients. Check with your provider to schedule a flu vaccine, or [get a free or low-cost flu vaccine from the City](#). Frequent hand washing, wearing face masks, and social distancing also help to prevent both the flu and COVID-19.

How can I protect myself against COVID-19?

Be up-to-date on vaccination.

This means, [get vaccinated](#) as soon as you can, and [get boosted](#) as soon as you are

eligible! Vaccination remains the most effective way to protect yourself and others. Boosters are strongly recommended for everyone 12 years old or older.

Wear a well-fitting mask.

An N95 is best and a surgical mask is good, but a cloth mask that fits well and has at least three layers is better than no mask. Cover your mouth and nose with a mask when indoors and close to people who don't live in your household. If you are not up-to-date on vaccinations, it is especially important for you to wear a mask.

Stay aware.

Masking is even more important for everyone when lots of people in our community are getting COVID-19, and it is often required by [state](#) and [local](#) public health orders to stop the spread. Stay up-to-date on [how much COVID-19 there is in our community](#) and when and where the most current health orders say you should mask.

Be outside whenever you can.

Outdoors is much safer than indoors. Avoid crowded, poorly ventilated indoor activities, especially if you are not up-to-date on vaccination, are at risk of severe illness from COVID-19, or if you live with or could expose someone who is at risk of severe illness from COVID-19.

Keep an eye on your health.

Pay attention to fevers, cough, shortness of breath, or other symptoms. If you are experiencing any of these symptoms, [follow guidance for staying home](#), seek medical care when necessary, and [get tested](#).

Wash your hands often with soap and water.

If soap and water are not available, use a hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol.

What should I know about the COVID-19 vaccine?

The vaccine really helps prevent serious illness and death.

Vaccines for COVID-19 work. They are safe and free. The vaccine is one of the most important ways to end the pandemic because it is excellent at protecting you from getting very sick or dying.

The vaccine really helps hospitals.

Being up-to-date on your vaccines can help keep our hospitals working well, and not overloaded, so that hospitals can care for people with other emergencies, like heart attacks.

The vaccine is safe.

The FDA, CDC, and California's own Scientific Safety Review Workgroup have reviewed data from clinical trials to ensure the safety and effectiveness of COVID-19 vaccines.

We recommend it!

SFDPH strongly encourages everyone who is eligible to get vaccinated, and to get a booster as soon as soon as is recommended. Find out more about vaccines and boosters, including where and when to get them at: sf.gov/covidvax.

When do I need to get tested?

If you have been exposed to COVID-19 or have COVID-19 [symptoms](#), follow [SFDPH guidelines for quarantine](#). Find out about your [COVID-19 testing options](#) and get tested. Ask for medical care if you need it.

What happens if I test positive?

Follow [SFPDH guidelines for isolation](#). Keep an eye on your symptoms and ask for medical care if you need it. There are [resources to help with isolation or quarantine](#), if you need them.

What changes when I am up-to-date on vaccination?

Your risk of going to the hospital or dying is MUCH less.

[People who are up-to-date on vaccination](#) (this means they have gotten all of their recommended COVID-19 vaccines—including boosters—when they were eligible) have a much lower risk of hospitalization and death from COVID-19.

You still need to follow guidance to protect others.

People who are up-to-date on vaccination still need to follow [state](#) and [local](#) health orders and any guidance from workplaces and local businesses.

You can still get infected.

People who are up-to-date on vaccination can still get infected with COVID-19. If you are up-to-date on vaccination and have COVID-19 [symptoms](#) or were a close contact to someone with COVID-19, follow guidance for [isolation, quarantine, and testing](#).

Should I check temperatures and COVID symptoms at the door?

No.

SFDPH does not require this because it has not been very helpful in preventing the spread of COVID-19.

Everyone should monitor themselves for [COVID-19 symptoms](#) or exposures.

Employers should ask employees to check for symptoms before coming to work. If they have symptoms, they should [isolate](#), get tested, and get medical care if they need it.

Some high-risk settings may still be required to screen.

Organizations may also choose to continue screening. If you screen, do it safely and with respect, and make sure you are following privacy laws. For additional resources see sfcdcp.org/screen.

How can I improve ventilation?

Good ventilation = less spread!

You can open windows and doors to bring in fresh air from outside, but only when health and safety allow. Do not prop open fire doors and make sure that open windows do not pose a fall risk for children.

Set HVAC to take in outdoor air.

Try not to recirculate indoor air. An HVAC professional can check your system to make sure that it is working properly and to see if it can use better filters. If you can, keep your ventilation going even when the building is not being used.

HEPA helps

You may also use portable air cleaners (“HEPA filters”), especially where the ventilation is not good. Fans can also help, but make sure that the fan is not blowing the air from one person to another.

For more information about ventilation, see [California Department of Public Health's Ventilation guidance](#).

Last updated March 9, 2022

Related

[Working during COVID-19](#)

Resources for working safely and getting support.

Departments or Public Bodies

[Department of Public Health
Disease Prevention and Control](#)

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