



## COVID-19 Vaccine FAQs (2 pages)

*Information in this document is current as of 1.7.2022. It will be updated as new information becomes available.*

### **Who is eligible to get a COVID-19 vaccine?**

Anyone who meets the age guidelines for an initial series of COVID vaccine is eligible.

- Moderna and Janssen/J&J vaccine has been approved for anyone age 18 and older.
  - Moderna vaccine requires two doses, 28 days apart.
  - The Janssen (J&J) vaccine requires one dose.
- Pfizer vaccine is approved for age 5 and older; it requires two doses, 21 days apart.

### **Children:**

Children age 5 to 11 are eligible to receive the Pfizer vaccine. Children receive one-third the dose of adults in two injections, 21 days apart. Some children may experience minor side effects such as pain, swelling or redness at the injection site. Other side effects may include fatigue or headache, but they should go away within a few days. Serious side effects are rare.

The CDC includes more details on their website: [COVID-19 Vaccines for Children and Teens](#)

If you have specific questions regarding vaccinations for your child, please schedule an appointment with your child's primary care provider, either in person or via telemedicine.

### **Immunocompromised:**

The [CDC recommends a third dose of mRNA vaccine](#) (Pfizer or Moderna) for moderately to severely immunocompromised people (such as cancer treatment, organ transplant, stem cell transplant, certain immunodeficiency syndromes, advanced or untreated HIV infection, and/or treatment with drugs that suppress the immune response). The third dose should be administered at least 28 days after the second dose. The third dose should be the same brand as the first series (Pfizer or Moderna).

### **Booster doses:**

The CDC approved COVID [booster doses for all adults age 18 and older](#) who initially received Pfizer or Moderna vaccine, administered at least six months after their second dose. A booster dose of Pfizer vaccine is also approved for children age 12-17.

A booster dose of the Janssen (J&J) vaccine is approved for those age 18 and older who were vaccinated at least two months ago.

Current CDC recommendations allow for mixing different brands of vaccine for the booster dose. Eligible individuals may choose which vaccine they receive as a booster dose. For example, if you initially received Moderna vaccine, it would be acceptable to get a booster dose of Moderna, Pfizer or J&J vaccine.

For more information: [Vaccines for COVID-19](#) (CDC website)

Please schedule an appointment with your healthcare provider if you would like to discuss whether a booster dose is appropriate for you. You can get personal vaccination records through the Washington State Immunization Information System (WAIS) at [wa.myir.net](http://wa.myir.net).

### **Where can I get COVID vaccine?**

FCN does not offer COVID vaccine or booster doses, but it is widely available through local pharmacies or health departments. Please use the state Department of Health [Vaccine Locator](#) to find a location near you, or call 1-800-525-0127 for more information.

### **How much does COVID-19 vaccine cost?**

COVID-19 vaccine is available at no cost to individuals. Clinicians giving the vaccine may charge an administration fee, which is billed to public or private insurance and reimbursed according to the terms of the plan. Uninsured patients may have the administration fee covered by the HRSA COVID-19 Provider Relief Fund, or private pay policies may apply.

### **Are COVID-19 vaccines safe?**

We take our role in evaluating vaccine safety for our patients very seriously. Our physician leadership team has reviewed the clinical trial data and independent evaluations that are available on COVID-19 vaccines and are confident in their safety and efficacy. Like all vaccines, some people may be advised against getting the COVID-19 vaccine based on their personal health history. This does not mean that the vaccine is not safe. Visit the websites listed at the end of this document for more information.

### **What are the side effects?**

The most common side effects of COVID-19 vaccine are sore arm, tiredness, headache, fever or chills and muscle pain. Most side effects occur within two days of getting the vaccine and last about a day.

To help track side effects, the CDC offers **v-safe**, a smartphone-based tool that uses text messaging and web surveys to provide personalized health check-ins after you receive a COVID-19 vaccination. Participation in v-safe is optional. To register, go to [vsafe.cdc.gov](https://vsafe.cdc.gov).

### **IMPORTANT: BE AWARE OF SCAMS, KEEP YOUR PERSONAL INFO SAFE**

Vaccine will only be made available through legitimate sources such as government health departments, health care facilities, pharmacies, etc. The Better Business Bureau advises against posting photos of your CDC Vaccination Record card online. Information on the card could be used for identity theft or to make counterfeit cards.

For additional information on COVID-19 vaccine, we recommend the following:

- [CDC website](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines): [www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines)
- Washington State [Department of Health website](https://www.coronavirus.wa.gov): [www.coronavirus.wa.gov](https://www.coronavirus.wa.gov)
- Washington State COVID-19 Assistance Hotline: 1-800-525-0127