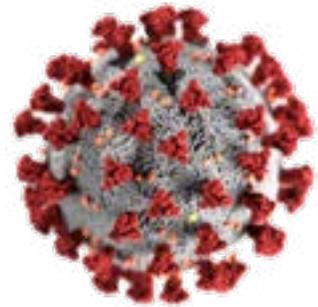


# COVID-19 Vaccine Frequently Asked Questions



## Is it my turn to get the COVID-19 vaccine?

All Illinoisans age 16 and up are [eligible for the COVID-19 vaccine](#).

Additionally, state mass vaccination sites, local health departments and providers are now [offering the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine for youth ages 12 through 15](#).

Individuals should check with their local health department or healthcare provider about whether a parent or guardian must be present for an individual under the age of 18 to receive the vaccine, or whether some other form of written consent is required.

## Am I required to get the vaccine?

The choice to get the vaccine is optional. There is no federal or state mandate to receive the COVID-19 vaccine. The CDC recommends the vaccine to [all Americans age 12 and over](#).

## What are the benefits of getting a COVID-19 vaccine?

COVID-19 can cause severe medical complications and can lead to death in some people. There is no way to know how COVID-19 will affect you. If you get COVID-19, you could spread the disease to family, friends and others around you.

Getting a COVID-19 vaccine can help protect you by creating an antibody response in your body without you having to become sick with COVID-19.

A COVID-19 vaccine might prevent you from getting COVID-19. Or, if you get COVID-19, the vaccine might keep you from becoming seriously ill or from developing serious complications.

Getting vaccinated also might help protect people around you from COVID-19, particularly people at increased risk of severe illness from COVID-19.

*-Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)*



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## Where can I get the vaccine?

You will need to make an appointment to get vaccinated. Locations offering vaccines vary depending on where you live.

Illinois has a statewide vaccination locator at <https://coronavirus.illinois.gov/s/vaccination-location>. The site is searchable by zip code and city. Check back regularly as new sites are added daily.

Additionally, individual health departments will share specific county information about COVID-19 vaccine availability and eligibility through their websites, social media and local media outlets.

Some healthcare provider practices are directly reaching out to eligible patients if they have vaccine ready to distribute. Please watch news sources in your community to see if your provider makes an announcement.

## Do I need to bring anything to my appointment?

You may be asked for personal identification, such as a driver's license or state ID. Providers may NOT ask individuals to provide documentation regarding their immigration status.

## How much will the vaccine cost me?

There is no cost for the vaccine. It is possible that healthcare providers may charge a fee to administer the vaccine. Health insurance will cover these fees. Those who are uninsured and unable to pay the administration fee cannot be turned away.

## Do I still need a vaccine if you have already had COVID-19?

**Yes.** The science is currently inconclusive on whether you will be naturally protected from a second COVID-19 infection in the future. The CDC currently suggests that if you were infected with COVID-19 during the previous 90 days, it is likely that you still have immune protection and that you will be asked to wait to receive your vaccine to allow others to be vaccinated first.

## Where can I go to find more information on the vaccine?

Your county health department (See Illinois' [local health department directory](#))

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

