

COVID-19 VACCINATION FACT SHEET

COVID-19 is a virus. COVID-19 has made many people very sick. Some people have died from COVID-19. People in Kentucky will be offered the COVID-19 vaccine. This will help you learn the facts about the vaccine.



What is a vaccine?

A vaccine helps your body fight an infection or a virus. The COVID-19 vaccine is a new medicine to do this. It will also help end the pandemic more quickly. It is given by a shot in your upper arm.

Is the COVID-19 vaccine safe?

Scientists, doctors, and the government have worked hard to make sure the vaccine is safe. They tested it on many people before approving. The vaccine will not give you COVID-19 and it will not change your DNA. Experts say the vaccine is the best way to protect yourself. Ask your health care provider if:

- You are pregnant or breastfeeding
- You are under the age of 16
- You have severe allergies



How many shots do I need?

The current vaccines are given as 2 shots. You will be given one shot and then a second one about 3 weeks later. Without the second shot, your body won't be able to fight the virus as well as it could. The person giving you the first shot will tell you when to get your second one.



What happens when I get my first shot?

- Wear your mask
- You will get the shot in your upper arm and then will be checked after 15 minutes to make sure you're ok
- You will get a card telling you what vaccine you had, where you had it, and when to get your next one
- The vaccine should be free

How will I feel after the shot?

You might have some side effects, such as:

- Sore arm
- Headache, fever, or sore muscles
- Feeling tired

You may or may not have side effects. Get the second shot even if you have side effects after the first one unless your doctor tells you not to.



How long will it take to work?

It takes time to build up protection. You can still get sick during this time so it's important to wear your mask, wash your hands, and stay at least 6 feet away from others. Even after both shots, you should still wear a mask to protect others.

When can I get one?

There is not enough vaccine for everyone yet, but there will be. The Kentucky plan tells you when you can get the vaccine. Click here to see [Kentucky's Vaccine Plan](#).



Do I have to get the vaccine?

No. Getting the vaccine is a choice that you can discuss with your doctor and other people who support you, including your guardian, if you have one. **Some things to ask are:**

- How does it work?
- Is it safe for me?
- When will I get it?
- Where do I go to get it?
- How will I feel after?
- How much does it cost?
- What will happen if don't get it?



If I've already had COVID-19, do I still need a vaccine?

Yes. You can get COVID-19 again. The vaccine is a way to protect yourself and others from getting it again.



Kentucky
**DEVELOPMENTAL
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For more information about COVID-19: visit [Kentucky's COVID-19](#) website.

For more information about COVID-19 Disability Resources: visit the [CCDD](#) website.

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IF YOU THINK YOUR RIGHTS ARE BEING VIOLATED. 1-800-372-2988**