

# COVID-19 VACCINE

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS FOR IMMIGRANTS IN COLORADO



For your health, and the health and safety of our community, it is important that everyone has access to accurate information about the new COVID-19 vaccine. Below are some frequently asked questions about the vaccine to help you make the right decision to protect you, your family, and your community.

### ELIGIBILITY AND DOCUMENTATION

#### Is US Citizenship required to get the COVID-19 vaccine?

- No, anyone who lives in Colorado can get the vaccine.

#### Is lawful presence required to get the COVID-19 vaccine?

- No.

#### What identification do I need to bring with me?

- No ID is required, especially as it relates to individuals qualifying for a vaccine based on their age. Providers can ask individuals to provide name, date of birth, or address; they cannot require that an individual be able to present a state-issued or other government-issued ID.
- State and local public health agencies will **never share your information** for any immigration or law enforcement purposes; information will only be used for public health purposes. **Receiving the COVID-19 vaccine will not count against you in any public charge determinations.**

#### Do you need health insurance to receive the COVID-19 vaccines?

- No, anyone can get a vaccine with or without insurance.

#### Can I be turned away if I do not have or bring a health insurance card?

- No. While a provider may ask for insurance information, a vaccine provider **may not** turn you away because of an inability to pay or a lack of medical coverage.

#### Is the COVID-19 vaccine free?

- Yes, it does not cost you anything.

#### Will ICE be allowed to be present on sites where vaccines are distributed?

- No. If you think there is a threat of ICE at the location, call the Colorado Rapid Response Network Hotline at 1-844-864-8341.

### GETTING A COVID-19 VACCINE

#### When can I get the vaccine?

- Vaccines are currently being [distributed in phases](#) based on your job, your health conditions, and other factors. [Follow this chart](#) to find out when you can expect to get the vaccine.

### How many shots do I need for the vaccine to work?

- The two current vaccines available are Moderna and Pfizer. **Both vaccines require two shots**; Pfizer vaccine requires shots 21 days apart and Moderna vaccine requires shots 28 days apart.

### How long does it take for the vaccine to work?

- It could take up to one or two weeks after your last dose of the vaccine to have protection. Make sure you receive all the necessary doses of your vaccine.

### Do I need to keep wearing a mask and social distancing after I've been vaccinated?

- Yes, it is important we all keep protecting ourselves and others until we know more about how long vaccine immunity lasts and its impacts on COVID.

### Can I get COVID-19 again if I was infected before?

- Yes, cases of reinfection (getting COVID again) have been reported.

### If I have already had COVID, should I get the vaccine?

- Yes, due to the severe health risks associated with COVID-19 and the fact that reinfection with COVID-19 is possible, you should be vaccinated regardless of whether you already had the virus. It is recommended to **wait at least 90 days after recovering from COVID-19 before getting the vaccine. Consult with your doctor if this applies to you.**

## VACCINE SAFETY

### What ingredients are in the vaccines?

- Each ingredient in a vaccine serves a specific purpose: to provide protection, to keep the vaccine safe and long-lasting, and to produce the vaccine. All ingredients in vaccines have been rigorously studied. For a full list of ingredients, please see each vaccine's fact sheet ([Moderna](#) or [Pfizer](#)). The two COVID-19 vaccines currently available in the United States do not contain eggs, preservatives, or latex.

### What are the side effects of the vaccine?

- People may experience minor side effects. It's your body's response to the vaccine--it means it is working. Side effects include pain at the injection site, tiredness, headache, muscle pain, chills, joint pain, nausea/vomiting, and fever. As with all vaccines, in very rare cases, severe reactions may occur. Different people may experience different side effects, even if they receive the same vaccine. Even if you experience side effects after your first dose, it is **important to continue with your second dose** to provide maximum protection.

### Should people who have allergies get the vaccine?

- People who have had **severe allergic reactions to other vaccines** in the past should use caution and talk with their health care provider before deciding whether or not to get vaccinated. People with a history of severe allergic reactions **unrelated to any vaccine** --such as food, pet, or environmental allergies--may get the COVID-19 vaccine.

### **What is riskier, to have the disease or the possible long-term side effects of the vaccine?**

- Due to the severe health risks associated with COVID-19 and the fact that reinfection with COVID-19 is possible, it is highly recommended to get vaccinated once you're eligible.
  - All the COVID-19 vaccines being used have gone through intensive studies to ensure they are as safe as possible. Clinical trials **must first show they meet rigorous criteria for safety and effectiveness** before any vaccine, including COVID-19 vaccines, can be authorized or approved for use. The known and potential benefits of a COVID-19 vaccine must outweigh the known and potential risks of the vaccine for it to be made available to the public.
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### **For more information:**

- Visit the state's [website on the COVID vaccine](#) and [CDC's vaccine website](#)
- Call 303-389-1687 or 877-462-2911, Monday through Friday, 9AM-10PM and Saturday and Sunday, 9AM-5PM.
- This document is subject to change, and we will work hard to update it with new information as it becomes available.