

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT THE COVID-19 VACCINE

Q Is the COVID-19 vaccine safe?

A Yes. The vaccines underwent successful clinical trials. Clinical trials of COVID-19 vaccines, and all vaccines, must first show they are safe and effective before any vaccine can be authorized or approved for use.

Q How many shots are needed to have the 95% immunity?

A You will need 2 shots, 21 to 28 days apart, when you receive the Pfizer or Moderna vaccine in order to achieve adequate immunity.

Q Will the vaccine make me sick with COVID-19?

A No. There is no live virus inside the vaccine, therefore it cannot give you SARS-CoV-2.

Q Are there side effects of the COVID-19 vaccine?

A The most common known side-effects of the vaccine are soreness near the injection site, fever, headache, and body aches.

Q How can I protect myself from getting COVID-19 before I receive the vaccine?

A You should continue to cover your mouth and nose with a mask when around others, avoid close contact with people who are sick, stay 6 feet away from others who do not live in your household, avoid crowds, and wash your hands often.

Q Do I need to continue to wear a mask even after I have received my 2 doses of the vaccine?

A Yes! While we begin to learn more about the protection that COVID-19 vaccines provide under real-life conditions, it will be important for everyone to continue using all the tools available to help stop this pandemic, like **covering your mouth and nose with a mask, washing hands often, and staying at least 6 feet away from others** who do not live in your household. Together, COVID-19 vaccination and following CDC's recommendations for how to protect yourself and others will offer the best protection from getting and spreading COVID-19. Other factors, including how many people choose to get vaccinated and how the virus is spreading in communities, will also affect this decision.

ARE YOU INTERESTED IN RECEIVING THE COVID-19 VACCINE?

If you are interested in receiving the COVID-19 vaccine please **fill out the online survey** and then **wait to be contacted** by health department staff.

The **survey is not used to schedule your appointment**. That step comes later in the process. It **may take several weeks before we call you** based on the phase you qualify for.

The vaccination survey can be found at www.willcountyhealth.org/covid-19/covid-vaccine

There are several phases of the vaccine distribution.

To know what phase you fall under please see the back page of this sheet or visit our website for the most up-to-date list. The list does change from time-to-time.

For more information about COVID-19, the vaccine, and the different phases of distribution, please visit our website

www.willcountyhealth.org/covid-19

IDPH Vaccine Distribution Plan

Phase 1a

- Doctors/Patient Care Providers, Nurses (including School and Public Health Nurses), CMAs, and CNAs
- Hospital and Clinic Staff with Patient Contact (including Environmental Services, Infection Waste Workers, Laundry Staff, Dietary Staff, Reception Staff, Clergy/Pastoral/Chaplains, Interpreters, Crisis Intervention Staff, and Security Staff)
- COVID Sample Lab Workers
- Vaccine Clinic Workers
- Students on Clinical Rotations
- Public Health Clinics, Federally Qualified Health Centers, and Local Health Department Points of Vaccine Distribution
- EMS/EMT, Fire Department acting as EMT, and Air Medical Transport
- Respiratory and X-ray Technicians
- Pharmacists
- Phlebotomists
- Urgent Care Workers
- Therapists (PT, OT, Speech, and Developmental)
- Psychologists, Counselors, and Mental Healthcare Providers
- Dentists, Dental Hygienists, and Dental Assistants
- Eye Care Providers
- Plasma and Blood Donation Staff
- Dialysis Staff
- Home Health/Hospice/Palliative Care/Caregiver Workers
- Long-term Care/Assisted Living Facilities' Residents and Staff
- Mental Health and Disability Centers
- Medical Outpatient Facilities
- Funeral Home Staff
- Corrections Nurses/Aids
- Organ Harvesters
- Morticians
- **Anyone in Hospital and Healthcare Settings with Direct or Indirect Exposure to Patients or Infectious Materials**



Phase 1b

- Persons Aged 65 and Older
- Frontline Essential Workers
 - First Responders: Firefighters, Law Enforcement Officers, 911 Workers, Security Personnel, and School Officers
 - Education Sector: Teachers, Support Staff/Aides, Daycare Workers, and Principals
 - Corrections Officers and Inmates: Prison/Jail Officers, Juvenile Facility Staff, In-person Support Workers, and Inmates
 - Food and Agriculture Workers: Processing, Plants, Veterinary Health, Livestock Services, and Animal Care
 - Postal Service Workers
 - Manufacturing Workers: Industrial Production of Goods for Distribution to Retail and Wholesale/Other Manufacturers
 - Grocery Store Workers: Baggers, Cashiers, Stockers, Pick-Up, and Customer Service
 - Public Transit Workers: Flight Crew, Bus Drivers, Train Conductors, Taxi Drivers, Para-Transit Drivers, In-Person Support Staff, and Ride Sharing Service Drivers
 - Shelters/Adult Day Care Staff and Residents: Homeless Shelter, Women's Shelter, Adult Day/Drop-In Program, Sheltered Workshop, and Psycho-Social Rehab



Phase 1c

- Persons Aged 16 to 64 with Underlying Medical Conditions which increase risk for severe COVID-19: Obesity, Diabetes, Pulmonary Diseases, Heart Conditions including Hypertension, Kidney Diseases, Cancer, Immunocompromised Individuals, Sickle Cell Disease, and Pregnancy
- Individuals with Disabilities
- Households with 10 or More Residing in the Home
- Other Essential Workers
 - Transportation and Logistics (Trucking, Roads Work, Ground Delivery, etc.)
 - Water and Wastewater Services
 - Food Services (Restaurants, Catering Staff, Food Pick up and Delivery, etc.)
 - Shelter and Housing (Construction, etc.)
 - Finance (Banking, Accounting, Mortgage, etc.)
 - Information Technology and Communications (Phones, etc.)
 - Energy (Power, Utility, etc.)
 - Legal (Judges, Attorneys, Probation, Court Services, etc.)
 - Media
 - Public Safety (Engineers, Emergency Management, etc.)
 - Public Health Workers without Direct Contacts

Phase 2

- Rest of the Population Aged 16 and Up



For more info on distribution phases visit

<https://www.dph.illinois.gov/covid19/vaccine-faq>