



## What Multicultural Communities Need to Know About the COVID-19 Vaccine

The COVID-19 vaccination is an important tool to help stop the pandemic. Imagine a holiday season with family gatherings, warm hugs, shared meals, and sporting events shoulder-to-shoulder with fellow fans. This is possible someday in the future, with the promise of the COVID-19 vaccine. The key to defeating this debilitating and deadly disease is assuring the public that vaccines are safe and effective, and that enough of us will get vaccinated once we have access.

### The COVID-19 vaccine is safe and effective for all races and ethnic backgrounds.

COVID-19 vaccine testing has been done under best practices across all demographics to ensure it will have the most productive result for all communities. In our day, as in the past, there is a lack of trust in vaccinations, but as COVID-19 continues to impact people of color at disproportionate rates, the medical community has advised that vaccinations are essential in defeating COVID-19.

In the United States, many steps are in place to make sure vaccines are safe and effective for you and your family. These steps consist of volunteers from a variety of racial and ethnic groups participating in clinical trials to ensure that the vaccine is safe for diverse communities. Over 70,000 people were safely tested and FDA guidelines have been followed throughout the process. Information and data from the trials are independently reviewed by scientists, medical professionals, and public health experts before the vaccine is administered. **The personal information you share when you receive the vaccine is protected.**



### COVID-19 vaccination will help protect you from getting sick with COVID-19.

Two doses of the currently available COVID-19 vaccine are needed to be immunized. A second shot after your first shot is needed to get the most protection the vaccine has to offer against this serious disease. Please note that the COVID-19 vaccine is not "live", meaning the vaccine cannot cause COVID-19.



### After COVID-19 vaccination, you may have some side effects. This is a normal sign that your body is building protection.

The side effects from COVID-19 vaccination are possible and may even affect your ability to do daily activities, but they should go away in a few days. That just means the vaccine is working. However, it's important to know that the COVID-19 vaccine does not contain a live virus and you cannot catch the disease by getting the vaccine. It typically takes a few weeks for the body to build immunity after vaccination. That means it's possible you could be infected with the virus that causes COVID-19 just before or just after vaccination and still get sick. This is because the vaccine has not had enough time to provide protection, not because it didn't work. Health officials will continue to monitor the vaccine and any potential side effects long after the vaccine has been distributed. Your safety is their top priority.



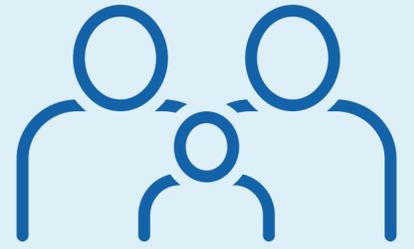
### Cost, immigration status, or lack of insurance are not obstacles to getting vaccinated against COVID-19.

Vaccine doses offered by the state of Utah will be given to people at no cost regardless of immigration status or whether or not you have insurance. However, vaccination providers may be able to charge administration fees for giving the shot. Vaccination providers can get this fee reimbursed by the patient's public or private insurance company. If you do not have insurance, community-based clinics will be available for your use that waive this fee. Make sure to check with the vaccine provider about fees before you go and know that **the personal information you share when you receive the vaccine is protected.**



## Is there an age requirement to be vaccinated for COVID-19?

The Pfizer vaccine is approved for anyone 16 years and older and the Moderna vaccine is for anyone 18 years and older. If as many people as possible get vaccinated and we continue to follow health recommendations, we will win the fight against this virus.



## Who will get a COVID-19 vaccine first? When can I expect to get it?

The Utah Department of Health and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommend that healthcare professionals most likely to come in contact with COVID-19 and long-term care facility residents should be vaccinated first; followed by remaining healthcare workers, emergency responders, K-12 school staff, people aged 75+, people with underlying medical conditions that put them at risk for severe illness from COVID-19, and then the general public.

All communities should refer to [coronavirus.utah.gov/vaccine](https://coronavirus.utah.gov/vaccine) for a detailed timeline on vaccine distribution and future updates.



## When it comes time, where can I receive the vaccine?

Local health departments will provide vaccine clinics for groups of people like school staff and first responders to get the vaccine when it is their turn. Once the vaccine is ready for the general public, it should also be available at places like pharmacies, healthcare clinics, and doctor's offices.

In the meantime, you can sign up for the State of Utah Vaccine Newsletter at [coronavirus.utah.gov/vaccine#sign-up](https://coronavirus.utah.gov/vaccine#sign-up) to receive direct emails with background and latest information on the COVID-19 vaccine and Utah's distribution plan. Eventually, you will receive information as to where you can receive the vaccine and when.



# We are all in this together.

Being vaccinated does not mean you are completely in the clear. Until everyone has access to a vaccine, we must continue to wear masks, physical distance, wash our hands frequently, and stay home when we have symptoms of COVID-19 in order to further prevent the spread. Visit [coronavirus.utah.gov/vaccine](https://coronavirus.utah.gov/vaccine) for updated information about vaccine availability and next steps.

