

Plain Language: Ohio's COVID-19 Vaccination Program

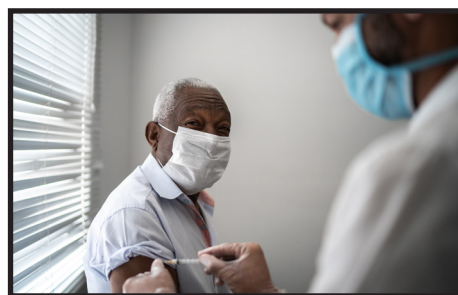
What is COVID-19?

It is a new illness spreading around the world. It is also called coronavirus. It is a virus making people very sick. Getting this virus is bad for you.



What is a vaccine?

A vaccine is a medicine. It protects you from getting sick. For example, the flu shot is a vaccine. It protects you from getting the flu. Getting a vaccine is good for your health and could keep you from getting sick.



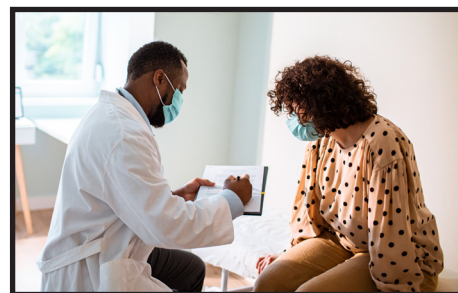
What to know about the COVID-19 vaccine?

Many COVID-19 vaccines are being made. Most require you to get 2 shots. You get the second shot 3 to 4 weeks after you got the first one. The second shot is like a booster shot. You need to get both shots for the vaccine to work.

The government makes sure all vaccines are as safe as possible.

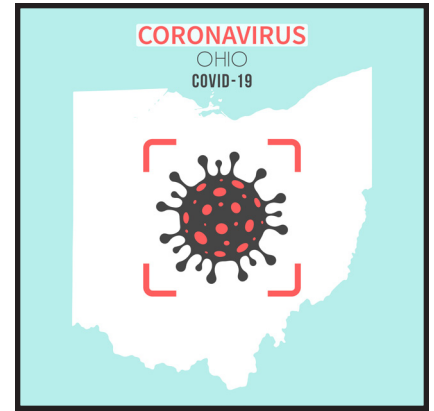
The vaccine is free.

Talk to your doctor about what could happen when you get the COVID-19 vaccine. There are some side effects. For example, your arm might be sore where you get the shot (just like when you get a flu shot), and you might feel tired or have a fever after you get the shot.



What is Ohio's COVID-19 Vaccination Program?

It takes time to make enough vaccines for everybody. Ohio has a plan with a few phases to give the COVID-19 vaccines across the state to those who want to get one. People who are most at risk will get the vaccine first.



Who will get the COVID-19 vaccine?

In the early phases, the people most at risk will be able to get the vaccine if they want. This will include medical workers, people caring for COVID-19 patients, and people who live or work in group settings. This includes people with disabilities who live with one roommate or more as well as their staff.

For now, the vaccine is not for children. Younger and healthy adults might have to wait until spring to get the vaccine. Once more vaccines are made, every person in Ohio will have a choice to get the vaccine if they want to.

Ask your doctor if you have questions about when it will be your turn to get the vaccine.



Why is the COVID-19 vaccine important for people with developmental disabilities?

People with disabilities who receive supports may be more likely to be in contact with someone who has COVID-19. Some people with disabilities who get COVID-19 get sicker than others because they may have illnesses that make it hard for their body to fight the disease.



Where can I get the COVID-19 vaccine?

Vaccines will be sent to hospitals, local health departments, and some pharmacies for them to give vaccines to eligible people who want them during the first phase. Once more vaccines are available, there may be more locations to get the vaccine.



Do I have to get the vaccine?

No, it is your choice to get the COVID-19 vaccine or not. The vaccine is important for the health of people with disabilities and all those around them. Everyone plays an important role in reducing the risk of COVID-19 by getting a vaccine. Vaccines boost your immune system so it will be ready to fight the virus if you are exposed. Talk to your doctor about the benefits of getting the COVID-19 vaccine.



Do I need to get the vaccine if I already had COVID-19?

If you tested positive for COVID-19 that means you got the virus. We do not know enough about how long the protection lasts for those who have recovered from COVID-19. Talk with your doctor about getting the vaccine.



Will I need to wear a mask after I get a vaccine shot?

YES! You must wear a mask and follow social distancing rules after you get the vaccine. It takes time for the vaccine to build up in your body. We all must keep wearing masks. Doctors will tell us when it is safe to be in public without a mask.



For other questions about the COVID-19 vaccine, call the Ohio Department of Health's call center. Call 1-833-4-ASK-ODH (1-833-427-5634), or visit coronavirus.ohio.gov