

COVID-19 Vaccine Frequently Asked Questions

When will I get my first dose of COVID-19 vaccine?

The Rhode Island Department of Health produced a timeline showing when certain groups will be able to get the vaccine. Click [here](#) to view the Rhode Island vaccine timeline.

How does the vaccine work?

mRNA vaccines take advantage of the process that cells use to make proteins to trigger an immune response and build immunity to SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19. In contrast, most vaccines use weakened or inactivated versions or components of the disease-causing pathogen to stimulate the body's immune response to create antibodies.

Is the vaccine safe?

All studies show the vaccine is safe and effective. Every COVID-19 vaccine was tested in clinical trials involving tens of thousands of people to make sure they meet safety standards and protect adults of different ages, races, and ethnicities.

There were no serious safety concerns. Federal agencies will keep monitoring the vaccines to look for safety issues after they are authorized and in use.

No steps involving safety were skipped during the COVID-19 vaccine development process.

How do we know who was included in trials? Was there enough testing done among people like me?

The COVID-19 vaccines that have been authorized were tested in large clinical trials with people of different ages, races, and ethnicities. Information about vaccine trial participants is being released by researchers.

How effective is the vaccine?

Studies show the vaccine is about 95% effective in preventing symptomatic illness if you get both doses. The vaccine is very effective in protecting you and your family from the virus.

Why should Thundermist patients choose to get vaccinated?

We urge patients who qualify for the vaccine to get vaccinated as soon as possible. Getting vaccinated protects you, your family, our patients, and the community. It's the best way to put an end to this pandemic.

What are the side effects?

Side effects have been reported with the COVID-19 vaccine. These side effects include:

- Injection site reactions: pain, tenderness and swelling of the lymph nodes in the same arm of the injection, swelling (hardness), and redness.
- General side effects: fatigue, headache, muscle pain, joint pain, chills, nausea and vomiting, and fever.

How much does the vaccine cost?

There is no out-of-pocket cost for the COVID-19 vaccine.

What if I'm not sure yet if I want the vaccine?

Please speak with your primary care provider who can help you make the decision about if the vaccine is right for you.

Can my children get the COVID-19 vaccine?

The COVID-19 vaccine has not been studied in children. The vaccine is only approved for people ages 18 years or older.

What if I am pregnant or lactating?

Studies show the vaccine is safe for pregnant and lactating patients. Please consult with your medical providers prior to vaccination.

COVID-19 Frequently Asked Questions

Can you get the COVID-19 vaccine if you already had COVID-19?

The CDC guidance says those who have had COVID-19 have natural immunity for 90 days. However, you do not have to wait 90 days to get the COVID-19 vaccine. It is recommended to get the COVID-19 vaccine once it becomes available to you.

How long does it take the vaccine to work?

This is a two-dose vaccine series. The second vaccine is given four weeks after the first. It takes your body two weeks from the second dose to fully build immunity.

I got the vaccine! Do I still need to take precautions to prevent COVID-19?

Yes, you should continue to take all precautions to prevent the spread of COVID-19. The vaccine is effective in keeping you healthy, but it is unknown if you can still spread the illness to people who are not vaccinated. Most importantly, it will be many months before everyone who wants the vaccine can get it.

Please continue to practice social distancing, wash your hands, and wear a mask.

What if I get a call that I can receive the vaccine earlier than the Rhode Island plan?

As the country begins to distribute COVID-19 vaccines, there's no doubt scammers are already scheming. The vaccine is free. If anyone asks you to share your information or pay for access to the vaccine, you can bet it's a scam.

Here's what to know:

- You can't pay to put your name on a list to get the vaccine.
- You can't pay to get early access to a vaccine.
- Don't share your personal or financial information if someone calls, texts, or emails you promising access to the vaccine for a fee.

Can I get the COVID-19 vaccine if I'm Catholic?

Yes, here's what Providence Bishop Thomas Tobin says about the vaccine:

"Widespread vaccination in the community is essential to the mitigation of COVID-19, a very serious disease. Vaccination promotes the common good. And vaccination is a very legitimate expression of our firm commitment to respect and protect human life."

The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops says: "Pfizer and Moderna's vaccines raised concerns because an abortion-derived cell line was used for testing them, but not in their production. The Johnson & Johnson vaccine, however, was developed, tested and is produced with abortion-derived cell lines raising additional moral concerns. The Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith has judged that 'when ethically irreproachable Covid-19 vaccines are not available... it is morally acceptable to receive Covid-19 vaccines that have used cell lines from aborted fetuses in their research and production process.' However, if one can choose among equally safe and effective COVID-19 vaccines, the vaccine with the least connection to abortion-derived cell lines should be chosen. Therefore, if one has the ability to choose a vaccine, Pfizer or Moderna's vaccines should be chosen over Johnson & Johnson's... given the world-wide suffering that this pandemic is causing, we affirm again that being vaccinated can be an act of charity that serves the common good."