

# Your guide to getting vaccinated in Illinois

The COVID-19 vaccines are effective tools to protect you from the virus and help end this pandemic.

On February 25, the State of Illinois moved into Phase 1B+ of vaccine administration, which includes people with serious medical conditions or disabilities, over the age of 16. Those who are in Phase 1A and Phase 1B are also still eligible to receive the vaccine. The vaccines are free to all Illinoisans and are available by appointment only at this time.

## Benefits

The COVID-19 vaccines are a critical part of ending this pandemic. Growing availability of vaccines means we can help protect ourselves, slow the spread of the virus and save as many lives as possible.

## Who is eligible?

While the number of doses is limited, vaccines will be prioritized for people with the greatest risk. And as more vaccine becomes available, more people will become eligible. Here's who is eligible to get the vaccine right now:

- **Phase 1A:** Healthcare workers and long-term care residents and staff
- **Phase 1B:** People age 65 and older and frontline workers including first responders, educators, corrections workers and inmates, and workers in the following industries: food and agriculture, manufacturing, USPS, public transportation, grocery stores, shelters and day care
- **Phase 1B+:** People with high-risk medical conditions — including cancer, chronic kidney disease, COPD, diabetes, heart conditions, immunosuppressed states from a solid organ transplant, smoking, obesity, pregnancy, pulmonary diseases and sickle cell disease — and people with disabilities

## How to make an appointment

Vaccines are currently available by appointment only at more than 800 locations across the state. Find a provider and more information at [coronavirus.illinois.gov](https://coronavirus.illinois.gov)

## Effective protection is here



### Prevention

The most important benefit of vaccination is to help prevent you from getting sick with COVID-19.



### Protection

Vaccines go through rigorous testing to prove their protection, and all three authorized vaccines were 100% effective at preventing death and hospitalization from COVID-19.



### End the pandemic

Vaccines are how we end this pandemic. Once enough of us have been vaccinated and build immunity, we can get back to our pre-COVID-19 routines.

## Are all of the vaccines effective?

In order to be authorized, vaccines must be proven to be effective. Public health experts certify each vaccine's protection before it's authorized for use.

## How much will the vaccine cost?

Vaccines are available to all eligible Illinoisans at no cost. Your insurance or our state government may be billed a vaccine administration fee, but there are NO out of pocket costs.

## Is the vaccine safe for everyone?

All approved vaccines have gone through clinical trials with tens of thousands of participants of diverse backgrounds. The results of the trials are independently reviewed before being recommended.

## Are there side effects of this vaccine?

Some people may experience side effects, which is normal. Side effects are part of the immune response that shows your body has recognized the vaccine and is building protection, which means the vaccine is working.

## If I have already had COVID-19 and recovered, do I still need to get vaccinated?

Yes, people who have already had COVID-19 should plan to get the vaccine. It's currently unclear if antibodies from your infection will naturally protect you from another COVID-19 infection in the future.

## Do I need to wear a mask and avoid close contact with others if I have received two doses of the vaccine?

Yes. Vaccines work with your immune system so your body will be ready to fight if you are exposed to the virus. However, to protect those around you, you should still follow safety precautions - wear a mask, practice social distancing, and wash your hands.

## What to expect

### Before vaccination

1. Make sure you're eligible and find a provider at [coronavirus.illinois.gov](https://coronavirus.illinois.gov)

### When you get vaccinated

1. After you check in, you'll get your shot and stay on-site for observation for 15 minutes after receiving the vaccine.
2. You'll get a vaccination card or printout with information about which COVID-19 vaccine you received, the date you received it, and where you received it. You'll also receive a fact sheet that tells you more about the specific COVID-19 vaccine you were given.

### After vaccination

1. Two COVID-19 vaccines authorized in the U.S. require two shots to be fully vaccinated. If a second dose is required, be sure to make an appointment and return for your second shot.
2. Even after you're fully vaccinated, keep masking up to protect those closest to you.

## Remember the three Ws

### Wear a mask

A mask or cloth face covering helps stop the spread of COVID-19. Wear one whenever you're in a public setting and remember, it only works when you wear it.

### Watch your distance

Practice social distancing by avoiding large gatherings with those outside your household and staying at least six feet away from others, in both indoor and outdoor spaces.

### Wash your hands

Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.

