

# 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](http://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](http://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>