What to know about Covid-19

Find a vaccine

COVID 19 Vaccine FAQs

1. Where can I get a COVID-19 vaccine or vaccine booster?

Search for a vaccine to find appointments near you. All the major pharmacy chains and local communities have vaccines readily available. If you're a Clover Health member and are having trouble finding a vaccine appointment, or need a ride to a vaccination site, our Member Service team is still at **1-855-775-1629** (TTY/TDD 711).*

Pfizer or Moderna (mRNA) vaccines are preferred. For two-dose vaccines, make sure you get both doses of the same vaccine (for example, two Pfizer or two Moderna doses).

For boosters, either Pfizer-BioNTech or Moderna is preferred—it does not matter which vaccine you first received. For example, if you got two doses of the Pfizer vaccine initially, you can get a Moderna booster. Or, if you receive the Johnson & Johnson vaccine, you can receive a Pfizer-BioNTech or Moderna booster.

2. Will I be charged when I get the COVID-19 vaccine or booster?

You can get your COVID-19 vaccine and booster **at no cost to you** at any location where you can get an appointment—don't wait.

3. Why do I need a COVID-19 vaccine?

At Clover Health, we strongly encourage you to get the COVID-19 vaccine. Vaccination is the best way to protect yourself, your family, and your friends from severe disease. Unvaccinated people are much more likely to become seriously ill with COVID-19.

The COVID-19 vaccine and boosters are more important than ever since the variants which spread more quickly and are more contagious, particularly in those who are unvaccinated. Getting the COVID-19 vaccine is the best way to protect yourself and slow the spread of these variants.

4. Does the COVID-19 vaccine really work?

Yes, the COVID-19 vaccines are safe and they work. Getting vaccinated protects you from COVID-19 and helps prevent severe illness and death. Some of the COVID-19 variants may spread faster and spread faster than earlier forms of the virus. Those who are fully vaccinated and boosted are better protected from developing serious disease.

5. Are there side effects from the vaccine?

You may have side effects after you receive your vaccine, such as a sore arm or flu-like symptoms. These are normal and should go away within 1-2 days. Over 200 million Americans have been vaccinated safely against COVID-19.

6. Should I still get the COVID-19 vaccine if I have serious underlying conditions?

The COVID-19 vaccine has been tested and shown to be effective and safe for patients with conditions such as high blood pressure, diabetes, and heart disease. If you are receiving active treatments that suppress your immune system, such as medications for organ transplants, active cancer treatments, or management of autoimmune diseases, then COVID-19 vaccination is still recommended. Talk to your doctor about the CDC's recommendation for when and how you should get the vaccine as well as the number and frequency of boosters that may be recommended for you.

7. When will I be protected after receiving a COVID-19 vaccine?

In general, people are considered vaccinated:

- 2 weeks after their second dose of the Pfizer or Moderna (mRNA) vaccine
- 2 weeks after the single-dose Johnson & Johnson's Janssen vaccine

All adults are eligible for a COVID-19 booster:

- 5 months after their second dose of the Pfizer mRNA vaccine
- 5 months after their second dose of the Moderna mRNA vaccine
- 2 months after their single J&J vaccine dose

8. Do I need a COVID-19 vaccine booster?

Booster doses of COVID-19 vaccines are recommended for all adults, because vaccination immune response naturally weakens over time and variants are circulating. The COVID-19 booster shot is a vaccination administered after the initial shot(s) in a series. Please refer to the latest booster eligibility criteria from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to see if a booster is recommended for you and when you should get it.

9. If I'm vaccinated, do I still need to wear a mask?

If you live in a high-risk area, have a compromised immune system, or live with someone who does, we recommend wearing a mask in public settings. Newer variants may be more infectious than earlier forms of the coronavirus. If you are fully vaccinated and become infected with a variant, you may still be contagious. The CDC says you should continue to wear a mask in public when in areas of high or substantial transmission. For added protection, wear a high-quality mask, such as a medical-grade mask, or better-fitting N95, KN95 or KF94 mask—these masks are now more widely available.

Continue to be careful in public crowds and in poorly ventilated spaces, and continue to watch out for symptoms of COVID-19. If you have symptoms of COVID-19, get tested and stay home and away from others.

10. If I've already had COVID-19, do I still need the vaccine?

Even if you've already had COVID-19 infection, studies so far indicate that the immune response from the vaccine is stronger and longer lasting. The CDC recommends vaccination (including boosters) even for those who have already had COVID-19. It appears that immune protections from natural infection or a vaccine wane over several months, hence the recommendation for booster shots.

11. What are we still learning about the COVID-19 vaccines?

- How long they protect people
- How well they protect people with weakened immune systems
- How effective the vaccines will be against newer variants that may arise, which is why the boosters are so important

General COVID-19 FAQs

1. What is COVID-19?

COVID-19 is the infectious disease caused by a coronavirus, which can cause severe pneumonia and even death. It is the source of the current worldwide pandemic and can be easily spread. We now have very effective vaccines that protect us from becoming ill with COVID-19.

2. Who is at risk for serious COVID-19 illness?

Older adults (over the age of 65), as well as people with underlying chronic medical conditions like heart disease, diabetes, lung disease, and cancer, are at higher risk for developing serious complications with COVID-19.

Even those who are younger and in good health are at higher risk for serious illness if they are unvaccinated.

3. How can I protect myself and others from COVID-19?

The most important way to protect yourself from COVID-19 infection is to **get vaccinated.** We strongly encourage you to get the COVID-19 vaccine as soon as possible.

If you haven't been vaccinated yet:

- Wear a snuggly fitting mask that covers your nose and mouth to help protect yourself and others. Find mask guidelines from the CDC here
- Stay at least 6 feet apart from others, especially around people who don't live with you.
- Avoid crowds and poorly ventilated indoor spaces, which can make you more likely to get or spread COVID-19.
- Wash your hands often with soap and water, or use hand sanitizer if soap and water aren't available.
- Get a COVID-19 vaccine as soon as you can.

4. How does COVID-19 spread?

COVID-19 infection occurs via respiratory droplets by breathing air shared with an infected person. Human coronaviruses are usually spread from an infected person to others through the air by talking, coughing, sneezing, or breathing the same air. We now know that significant rates of new COVID-19 infections are due to exposure to asymptomatic or pre-symptomatic persons and did not know they were carrying and spreading infection.

5. What are the signs and symptoms of COVID-19?

For many people who have COVID-19 infection, it can seem like a mild cold. But for a small percentage, COVID-19 infection can develop into a severe pneumonia. Recent studies show that even people with no symptoms can carry and spread the virus. That's why it's important to be vaccinated and continue to wear a mask when local rates or risk of infection are high. Symptoms of COVID-19 may be mild to severe and include:

Fever or chills Cough

Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing

Fatigue Muscle or body aches

Headache

New loss of taste or smell

Sore throat

Congestion or runny nose

Nausea or vomiting

If you develop emergency warning signs for COVID-19, call 911 immediately or call ahead to your local emergency facility.
Emergency warning signs include:

Trouble breathing

Persistent pain or pressure in the chest

New confusion

Inability to wake or stay awake

Pale, gray, or blue-colored skin, lips, or nail beds, depending on skin tone

This is not a complete list. Please consult your doctor for any other symptoms that are severe or concerning. New Jersey members can also check their symptoms with the New Jersey COVID-19 Symptom Checker. Members in our other states can use the CDC's Coronavirus Self Checker.

6. What should I do if I suspect I have COVID-19?

It's very important to avoid spreading the virus by isolating at home and taking the following precautions:

- Get tested for COVID-19 infection. You should isolate at home until you are tested and should test 3 to 5 days after a known exposure. You can find a local test site (here) or self-administer a rapid COVID-19 test at home. Note that some home tests require you to test two separate times spaced apart by at least 30 hours to confirm that you are negative.
- Don't go to any public places, stay at home, and don't have any visitors.
- Don't share personal items like dishes, utensils, or towels and wash your hands often.
- Monitor your symptoms closely, regularly take and record your temperature, and if your symptoms worsen, please contact your healthcare professional as soon as possible.
- For more specific recommendations on the length of time to isolate, based on your vaccination status, please see the latest CDC recommendations.