



COVID-19 Vaccine Frequently Asked Questions July 5, 2022

New/Updated Information is highlighted in yellow.

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General Vaccine Information

Is a COVID-19 vaccine necessary?

COVID-19 can be a minor illness in some or lead to severe disease or even death in previously healthy people. This means, everyone should take the virus seriously! It is believed that the more people who get vaccinated, the less sickness will be in our communities.

Many treatments and medications are being studied, but there is no cure. Prevention is key. Vaccination is an important step in helping to prevent this illness and its potentially devastating consequences.

What vaccines are approved or authorized for use?

The following are the COVID-19 vaccines available in the United States:

- Pfizer-BioNTech/Comirnaty
- Moderna/Spikevax
- J&J's Janssen

For current information on the types and use of COVID-19 vaccines available, please visit <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/different-vaccines.html>.

What is Pfizer-BioNTech/Comirnaty?

Pfizer-BioNTech/Comirnaty was licensed/approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) on August 23, 2021, for individuals ages 16 years and older. Once vaccines are approved by the FDA, companies can market the vaccines under brand names. COMIRNATY is the brand name for the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine. After FDA approval, the FDA-authorized Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine for individuals ages 16 years and older was marketed as COMIRNATY. No change was made to the vaccine's formula with the name change.

The Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine label remains for use in authorized age groups.

What is Moderna/Spikevax?

Moderna/Spikevax COVID-19 vaccine was licensed/approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) on January 31, 2022, for individuals ages 18 years and older. Once vaccines are approved by the FDA, companies can market the vaccines under brand names. Spikevax is the brand name for the Moderna COVID-19 vaccine. The FDA-authorized Moderna COVID-19 vaccine for individuals ages 18 years and older will now be marketed as Spikevax. No change has been made to the vaccine's formula with the name change.

The Moderna vaccine label remains for use in authorized age groups.

What is an Emergency Use Authorization (EUA)?

An EUA is used to help make medical products available as quickly as possible by allowing unapproved medical products to reach patients in need when there are no adequate, food and drug administration (FDA) approved and available alternatives. The known and potential

benefits of the product must outweigh the known and potential risks of the product to grant an EUA. Learn more about the EUA process by watching the following video, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iGkwaESsGBQ>.

What is the difference between emergency use authorization and full approval?

In an emergency when lives are at risk, like a pandemic, it may not be possible to have all the evidence that the FDA would usually have before approving a vaccine or drug. If there's evidence that strongly suggests that patients have benefited from a treatment, the agency can issue an EUA to make it available. For the COVID-19 vaccines, FDA required two months of safety and efficacy data before the EUA was granted. That included clinical trials with tens of thousands of people and rigorous testing and review, and all the vaccines continue to be closely monitored. Compared to emergency use authorization, FDA approval of vaccines requires even more data on safety, manufacturing, and effectiveness over longer periods of time and includes real-world data.

Can children six months and older receive the COVID-19 vaccine?

Yes. COVID-19 vaccines are now recommended for everyone 6 months and older and boosters for everyone 5 years and older, if eligible. The FDA authorized a three-dose primary series of Pfizer vaccine for children 6 months through 4 years of age and a two-dose primary series of Moderna vaccine for children 6 months through 5 years of age.

On June 23, 2022, the CDC also recommended the use of Moderna vaccine for ages 6 through 17 years.

Parents are encouraged to schedule an appointment to get their child vaccinated!

Are the COVID-19 vaccines given to children the same as the vaccines given to adults?

The COVID-19 vaccines for children have the same active ingredients as the vaccines given to adults. However, some children receive a smaller, age-appropriate dose that is the right size for them. The smaller doses were rigorously tested and found to create the needed immune response for each age group. Your child should get the vaccine made for their age group.

Why should children receive the COVID-19 vaccine?

- Just like adults, children can become severely ill from COVID-19, be hospitalized, and even die. Children can experience short- and long-term health complications that can affect their mental and physical health and quality of life.
- There is no way to predict if a child will develop a severe or mild case of COVID-19. Even healthy children without underlying medical conditions can get severe COVID-19 or suffer from long-term health complications.
- Vaccinating this younger age group helps lessen the strain on families by providing greater confidence with children participating in childcare, school, and other activities.
- COVID-19 vaccination reduces the strain on the healthcare system.

- Children who have previously had COVID-19 should still get vaccinated, as vaccination offers added protection.

Parents/guardians can get their children vaccinated by calling their healthcare provider to make an appointment, visiting [covid19.nj.gov/finder](https://www.state.nj.us/health/cd/documents/topics/NCOV/protect_child_covid19_vax.pdf) , or contacting the COVID-19 Vaccine Call Center at 855-568-0545 (10a-6p, M-F; 10a-4p, Sa).

For more information about COVID-19 vaccines and children visit, https://www.state.nj.us/health/cd/documents/topics/NCOV/protect_child_covid19_vax.pdf.

Is there a cost for COVID-19 vaccines?

COVID-19 vaccines are available for everyone at no cost. Vaccines were paid for with taxpayer dollars and will be given to all people living in the United States, regardless of insurance or immigration status.

I lost my COVID-19 vaccination card. How can I get a copy to show proof I received the vaccine?

If you lost your COVID-19 vaccination card, you may ask the vaccination site to provide you with another COVID-19 card, however, not all sites provide this service and some locations have closed. Another option is to ask your healthcare provider to print your official immunization record. Please ask your healthcare provider to include the COVID-19 vaccine lot number in case you will need that information in the future. The official record will list all vaccines that you have received and the date you received those vaccines.

Another option is for individuals to download the Docket mobile app (COVID-19 vaccines only), which is available in the [App store](#) or on [Google Play](#) in English or Spanish depending on Smartphone settings, or submit a request to NJIIS. For specific instructions, visit <https://njiis.nj.gov/core/web/index.html#/requestImmunizationRecord>.

Has there been a change with the NJIIS opt-in process?

Yes, Governor Murphy signed Executive Order (EO 207) to change NJIIS from an opt-in to an opt-out system. If someone chooses to receive the COVID-19 vaccine, their doses will be automatically entered into NJIIS. For more information, please visit

https://www.state.nj.us/health/cd/documents/topics/NCOV/njiis_executive.pdf.

Providers are required to enter all administered COVID- 19 doses into NJIIS.

Number of Doses and Boosters—For Most People (General Population)

Where can I find information on the spacing between doses and other specific details?

For a quick reference, please see the CDC COVID-19 vaccine chart available [here](#) and on the state Health Department's COVID-19 vaccine website,

https://www.state.nj.us/health/cd/topics/covid2019_vaccination.shtml.

Who should receive a *first* booster dose?

Everyone ages 5 years and older is recommended to receive a booster dose. For those 18 and older, any of the COVID-19 vaccines can be used for the booster dose, but Pfizer-BioNTech or Moderna is preferred. You may get Johnson & Johnson's Janssen COVID-19 vaccine [in some situations](#).

The timing of the booster dose is based on the vaccine you originally received:

- Pfizer-BioNTech—at least 5 months after the last Pfizer-BioNTech primary series
- Moderna—at least 5 months after the Moderna primary series
- J&J—at least 2 months after the first dose of J&J vaccine.

What booster dose can those ages 5-17 receive?

Those ages 5-17 can receive a **Pfizer-BioNTech** COVID-19 vaccine booster at least 5 months after their last dose. Pfizer-BioNTech is the only vaccine approved for this age group. Those who are 18 years and older can choose which COVID-19 vaccine they want for the booster dose, but Pfizer-BioNTech or Moderna is preferred. You may get Johnson & Johnson's Janssen COVID-19 vaccine [in some situations](#). Talk with your doctor to learn more.

Who should get a *second* booster?

The CDC recommends an additional booster dose for certain individuals:

- People ages 50 and older are **recommended** to get a second booster dose of an mRNA vaccine (Pfizer-BioNTech or Moderna) at least 4 months after receiving the first booster dose.
- People ages 12 and older who are severely immunocompromised are **recommended** to get a second booster dose with an mRNA vaccine (Pfizer-BioNTech or Moderna) at least 4 months after the first booster dose.
- People ages 18-49 who received the J&J vaccine as a primary series and the J&J booster **may receive** get a second booster with one of the mRNA vaccines (Pfizer-BioNTech or Moderna) at least 4 months after the first booster dose.

These recommendations acknowledge the increased risk of severe disease in certain populations including those who are elderly or over the age of 50 with multiple underlying conditions, along with the currently available data on vaccine and booster effectiveness.

[Immunocompromised \(Weakened Immune Systems\)](#)

Do some people need an additional dose?

Yes, [people with weakened immune systems](#) are recommended to receive an additional dose of an mRNA (Pfizer-BioNTech or Moderna) 28 days after completing the primary series [(starting dose(s))]. This third dose is sometimes referred to as part of the primary series for those who are moderately or severely immunocompromised.

Please see page 2 of the CDC COVID-19 vaccine chart available [here](#) and on the COVID-19 vaccine website, https://www.state.nj.us/health/cd/topics/covid2019_vaccination.shtml.

Do people who received an additional (3rd) dose also need a booster dose?

Yes, people 5 years and older with weakened immune systems are recommended to receive an additional dose of an mRNA (Pfizer-BioNTech or Moderna) vaccine plus a booster dose. The timing between the additional dose and the booster depends on the vaccine you received for your primary series:

- ***If you received Pfizer-BioNTech or Moderna two-dose primary series:*** Booster dose is recommended at least 3 months after the additional dose for a total of four doses.
- ***If you received a Johnson & Johnson (J&J)/Janssen one-dose primary series:*** Booster dose is recommended at least 2 months after the additional dose for a total of three doses.

Do immunocompromised people need a *second* booster dose?

Yes, the CDC recommends people ages 12 and older who are severely immunocompromised to receive a **second booster dose with an mRNA vaccine** (Pfizer-BioNTech or Moderna) at least 4 months after the first booster dose.

This recommendation is based on the increased risk of severe disease in certain populations along with the currently available data on vaccine and booster effectiveness.

Charts and Tools

- CDC Recommended COVID-19 vaccine schedules, visit [here](#).
- CDC When Do I Need a Booster Dose Tool visit [here](#).
- Isolation and Quarantine Calculator visit: [here](#).

Safety Concerns

What are the side effects of COVID-19 vaccine?

Side effects to the COVID-19 vaccines are typically mild and usually go away in one to two days — like soreness in the arm, fatigue, headaches, or a slight fever. Some people may have no side effects.

The risk of having a serious reaction to the COVID-19 vaccine is very low. Rare cases of [myocarditis](#) (inflammation of the heart muscle) and [pericarditis](#) (inflammation of the outer lining of the heart) have been reported. New studies have shown the rare risk of myocarditis and pericarditis associated with mRNA COVID-19 vaccination—mostly among males between the ages of 12 and 39 years—may be further reduced with a longer time between the first and second dose.

Getting the COVID-19 vaccine is much safer than getting sick with COVID-19 illness.

For more information, visit <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/safety.html>.

Is there a preference for the Pfizer-BioNTech and Moderna vaccines rather than the J&J?

Yes, the CDC is now recommending that people get a Pfizer-BioNTech or Moderna COVID-19 vaccine over the J&J vaccine. This recommendation was based on the latest scientific evidence on vaccine effectiveness, vaccine safety, and considerations of the U.S. supply. Specifically, new data showed a very small, but increased risk for a rare blood clot disorder for those who received the J&J vaccine.

The FDA and CDC take vaccine safety very seriously, which is why all vaccines are closely monitored. Identification of any possible risks, like the low risks associated with the J&J vaccine, is a sign that the nation's safety monitoring system for COVID-19 vaccines is working.

Can I still get the J&J vaccine?

People, who are not yet vaccinated, along with those who received the J&J vaccine and are now eligible for a booster shot, should get a Pfizer-BioNTech or Moderna vaccine. These two vaccines are widely available, but J&J vaccines are still on the market for people who are unwilling or unable to get a Pfizer-BioNTech or Moderna vaccine.

Are COVID-19 vaccines safe even though they were developed rapidly?

The vaccines were able to be developed rapidly because of the following:

- Vaccines have already been created for coronaviruses similar to SARS-CoV-2 (the virus that causes COVID-19), so a lot of the work was already done.
- All vaccines have gone through the same steps to show safety and effectiveness.
- Many steps occurred at the same time (e.g., vaccines were being made while testing was taking place). No steps were skipped.
- Collaboration between medical experts and researchers, along with plentiful funding helped to bring vaccines to the public sooner.

COVID-19 vaccines are **safe and effective**. Millions of people in the United States have received COVID-19 vaccines since they were authorized for emergency use by FDA. These vaccines have undergone and will continue to undergo the most intensive safety monitoring in U.S. history.

For more information and to view a video about vaccine safety, please visit <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/safety/safety-of-vaccines.html>.

Where can I learn more about vaccine safety and how to report a side effect?

There are different systems in place to monitor vaccine safety, including the Vaccine Adverse Events Reporting System <https://vaers.hhs.gov/index.html> and the smart phone app, v-safe. Your doctor will provide you with information to register for v-safe. Additional information is available at <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/safety/vsafe.html>.

Will the COVID-19 vaccine affect the menstrual cycle (period)?

Results from recent research studies show that people who menstruate **may observe small, temporary changes in menstruation** after COVID-19 vaccination, including:

- Longer duration of menstrual periods
- Shorter intervals between periods
- Heavier bleeding than usual

Despite these temporary changes in menstruation, there is no evidence that COVID-19 vaccines cause fertility problems.

Should people who are pregnant or breastfeeding receive the COVID-19 vaccine?

Yes! COVID-19 vaccination is recommended for people who are pregnant, breastfeeding, trying to get pregnant now, or might become pregnant in the future. Pregnant and recently pregnant people are more likely to get severely ill with COVID-19 compared with non-pregnant people. Getting a COVID-19 vaccine can protect you from severe illness from COVID-19. For more information, visit <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/recommendations/pregnancy.html>.

For more information about COVID-19 vaccine and common myths, visit <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/facts.html>

Vaccine Availability

How can I schedule an appointment to get vaccinated?

There are multiple ways to get an appointment including:

1. Use the [NJ Vaccine Appointment Finder](#) to find vaccination locations near you with available appointments.
2. Attend a [pop-up or mobile vaccination event](#) in your community.
3. Register with the [NJ Vaccine Scheduling System](#) to be notified when an appointment is available to you at vaccine locations that use the State's Vaccine Scheduling System. **If you need assistance registering with the NJVSS, please call 855-568-0545.**
4. Seniors 65+ can call the senior-specific hotline at 855-429-1168 to schedule dedicated vaccine appointments
5. Veterans, their spouses, and their caregivers may be eligible for vaccines through the VA. [Learn more here.](#)

Note: Please verify requirements with a vaccination site before visiting or making an appointment. Some require proof of residency within a specific county or municipality. In addition, minors must have the consent of a parent or legal guardian to be vaccinated.

How can you get the COVID-19 vaccine if you are homebound?

If you are unable to leave the home to receive a COVID-19 vaccine or are the healthcare provider or family caregiver of someone who is homebound, you may request an in-home

vaccination appointment by completing a form at covid19.nj.gov/homeboundvax (English) or covid19.nj.gov/homeboundvax-es (Spanish).

For assistance completing the form by phone, please call the **NJ COVID-19 Vaccine Call Center at 1-855-568-0545.**

Can you tell me more about the NJVSS? Is my information private?

The NJ Vaccine Scheduling System (NJVSS) is a secure online website developed by the NJ Dept. of Health for public health purposes. The NJVSS is a system that allows you to sign-up to make a COVID-19 vaccine appointment.

You will be asked to provide personal information (name, address, gender, race, and email), medical screening and occupation information. This helps to determine your eligibility for the vaccine. NJVSS will send you e-mail reminders about your appointment and reminders about getting the second dose. The NJVSS also lets you make an appointment at a vaccination location most convenient for you.

The information collected on the NJVSS is used for public health purposes only AND to ensure that same person returns for the second dose of the same vaccine. For more information visit, <https://covid19.nj.gov/pages/vaccine> and <https://covidvaccine.nj.gov/>.

Who is eligible for COVID-19 vaccination?

Everyone 6 months and older is eligible for a COVID-19 vaccine in New Jersey and encouraged to get vaccinated as soon as possible. Vaccines are available to all New Jerseyans, regardless of [immigration](#) or [insurance](#) status.

Where can I find information on public transportation to vaccine locations?

Through the Department's VAXRIDE initiative, NJ TRANSIT supports New Jerseyans in their efforts to get vaccinated against COVID-19. Visit <https://www.njtransit.com/vaxride> to find vaccination sites that are conveniently served by NJ TRANSIT bus, train and light rail routes.

In addition, NJ 211 is offering free rides to and from vaccination sites in partnership with United Way Worldwide and Lyft. Rides are available wherever Lyft operates in New Jersey and is available to everyone including those with collapsible wheelchairs and walkers. To request a free ride, call 211 or text 898-211, or visit 211 to learn more.

What are the recommendations for those people who received COVID-19 vaccine outside of the United States?

The recommendations for people vaccinated outside of the United States depend on the vaccine(s) received for the primary series, whether the primary series was completed, and whether a booster dose was received.

Talk to your doctor about whether your vaccine doses are accepted or will require revaccination.

Protection from Vaccine/Efficacy

Are COVID-19 vaccines effective?

COVID-19 vaccination reduces the risk of COVID-19 and its potentially severe complications. All COVID-19 vaccines currently authorized for use in the United States helped protect people against COVID-19, including severe illness, in clinical trial settings.

In addition to providing protection against COVID-19, there is increasing evidence that COVID-19 vaccines also provide protection against COVID-19 infections without symptoms (asymptomatic infections). COVID-19 vaccination can reduce the spread of disease overall, helping protect people around you.

For more information, visit <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/effectiveness/index.html>

If I had COVID-19 and recovered do I need to get the vaccine?

Yes, you should be vaccinated regardless of whether you already had COVID-19. Even if you have already recovered from COVID-19, it is possible—although rare—that you could be infected with the virus that causes COVID-19 again. Learn more about [why getting vaccinated is a safer way to build protection](#) than getting infected.

Anyone **currently** infected with COVID-19 should wait to get vaccinated until after their illness has resolved and after they have met the [criteria](#) to discontinue isolation.

In addition, people who have had a known COVID-19 exposure should not seek vaccination until their quarantine period has ended to avoid potentially exposing healthcare personnel and others during the vaccination visit.

Talk to your doctor if you have more questions about getting a COVID-19 vaccine.

If a person recovered from multisystem inflammatory syndrome in adults or children ([MIS-A](#) or [MIS-C](#)), can they still get vaccinated?

People who have a history of [MIS-A](#) or [MIS-C](#) may need to wait a while after recovering before they can get vaccinated.

Talk to your doctor if you have questions about getting a COVID-19 vaccine.

How do I protect myself from the Omicron variant?

Viruses constantly change through mutation. Some variants emerge and disappear while others may emerge and persist. New variants will continue to emerge.

CDC recommends people follow [prevention strategies](#) such as wearing a mask in public indoor settings in areas of substantial or high [community transmission](#), washing your hands frequently,

and physically distancing from others. CDC also recommends that everyone 5 years and older protect themselves from COVID-19 by staying [up-to-date](#) with your COVID-19 vaccines.

Quarantine and Isolation

What is the difference between quarantine and isolation?

Quarantine and isolation are ways to reduce the spread of diseases like COVID-19. Quarantine means keeping someone who may have been exposed to COVID-19 away from others in case they get sick.

Isolation means separating sick people from people who are not sick. You isolate if you are infected, even if you don't have symptoms. For more information, visit <https://www.state.nj.us/health/cd/documents/topics/NCOV/COVID-19-IsolationVsQuarantine.pdf>.

How long should people quarantine and isolate?

The CDC recently updated the recommendations for isolation and quarantine. For specific guidance, visit <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/your-health/quarantine-isolation.html> and <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/if-you-are-sick/quarantine-isolation-background.html>.

For information specific to New Jersey, visit https://www.state.nj.us/health/cd/topics/covid2019_community.shtml

Masking and Vaccine Requirements

When should people wear a face mask?

According to the CDC, people may choose to mask at any time. People with symptoms, a positive test, or exposure to someone with COVID-19 should wear a mask. For more information, visit <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/your-health/covid-by-county.html>.

For the current masking guidelines in New Jersey, visit [NJ COVID-19 masking guidelines](#).

When will the school mask mandate be lifted?

Governor Phil Murphy announced that masks and facial coverings will no longer be mandated for students, staff, or visitors in schools and childcare centers effective March 7, 2022. The Governor's decision was based on the continued drop in new cases and hospitalizations and the continued growth of vaccinations for our school-aged population.

For more information, visit <https://www.nj.gov/health/news/2022/approved/20220207d.shtml>.

What are the differences between masks?

While all masks and respirators provide some level of protection, loosely woven cloth products provide the least protection, layered finely woven products offer more protection, well-fitting disposable surgical masks and KN95s offer even more protection, and well-fitting NIOSH-approved respirators (including N95s) offer the highest level of protection.

Whatever product you choose, it is most important to wear a mask or respirator correctly (fit closely on the face without any gaps along the edges or around the nose) and be comfortable enough (covering your nose and mouth) so that you can keep it on when you need to.

For more information about masks, visit <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/about-face-coverings.html>.

What employees are required to receive the COVID-19 vaccine or weekly testing?

Information about employee vaccine and testing requirements can be accessed at [NJ COVID-19 vaccine requirements](#).

Can an employer access an employee's COVID-19 vaccination records in the New Jersey Immunization Information System (NJIS) to verify their vaccination status?

No, an employer cannot access an employee's vaccination records that are maintained in the NJIS for the purpose of verifying the employee's vaccinations for employment.

An authorized NJIS user's access to information in the NJIS is limited by law, namely N.J.S.A. 26:4-131 et seq. and N.J.A.C. 8:57, subchapter 3. The statutes and rules provide that NJIS users shall only access an individual's vaccination information in the NJIS if they have claimed the individual in NJIS as their patient and/or if the user is currently providing healthcare services to the individual. The statutes and rules further provide that a child care center, school, college or university shall only access an individual's immunization information in the NJIS if they have enrolled or are in the process of enrolling the individual in their institution.

Because the statutes and rules do not permit an employer to verify an employee's vaccination status in NJIS, employers should have employees submit vaccination documentation for verification. Please see [COVID-19 Vaccination Documentation FAQs](#) for more details on valid vaccine documentation.

All authorized users should review the statute and regulations to ensure use is consistent with existing laws. The NJIS is the official Immunization Registry pursuant to the Statewide Immunization Registry Act – N.J.S.A. 26:4-131 et seq. (P.L. 2004, c. 138), N.J.A.C. 8:57, subchapter 3.

Other Vaccines

Can you receive COVID-19 at the same time as other vaccines?

COVID-19 vaccines and other vaccines may now be administered on the same day. Currently it is unknown if there is a potential for increased reactions when COVID-19 is given with other vaccines. Speak with your healthcare provider to determine what works best for you.

Will getting the flu vaccine protect me against coronavirus?

No. Influenza viruses and coronaviruses are different. Getting a flu vaccine will not protect against COVID-19; however, the vaccine can reduce flu illnesses, hospitalizations, and can help to conserve potentially scarce healthcare resources during the pandemic.

It's likely that flu viruses and the virus that causes COVID-19 will both be spreading this fall and winter, making it more important than ever to get a flu vaccine! It is the best way to protect yourself and others – especially those who are particularly vulnerable to both COVID-19 and influenza such as older adults and those with chronic health conditions.

For more information about flu, visit

<https://www.cdc.gov/flu/> or <https://www.cdc.gov/flu/>.

Medical Therapies & Testing

Are COVID-19 treatments available?

For people at high risk of disease progression, the FDA has issued EUAs for a number of treatments for COVID-19.

- Monoclonal antibody treatments could help the immune system recognize and respond more effectively to the virus.
- Oral antiviral medications that target specific parts of the SARS-CoV-2 virus can help reduce its multiplication and spread through the patient's body.

Learn more about people who are at increased risk for developing severe complications from COVID-19 illness by visiting <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/need-extra-precautions/people-with-medical-conditions.html>.

For information about treatments, visit

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/your-health/treatments-for-severe-illness.html> .

What are antibodies?

Antibodies are proteins that people's bodies make to fight viruses, such as the virus that causes COVID-19. You can receive antibodies against COVID-19 to help protect you – these are called passive antibody therapies and include convalescent plasma and anti-SARS-CoV-2 monoclonal antibodies. The monoclonal antibodies specifically target the virus that causes COVID-19.

For questions about whether you can and should get antibody treatment, call your doctor or health care provider

More information about medication therapies can be accessed at https://www.state.nj.us/health/cd/topics/covid2019_community.shtml.

If I received these antibodies, when should I get vaccinated?

You should not have to wait to get vaccinated if you received antibodies.

Speak with your doctor if you have additional questions or concerns.

Where can people get free COVID-19 testing and treatment?

Free, at-home COVID-19 saliva PCR tests are available to every New Jerseyan who think they need a test. **Order your test by visiting learn.vaulthealth.com/nj.**

Free, at-home rapid antigen tests are available from the federal government. Order one set of 8 free at-home tests from special.usps.com/testkits.

In addition, free COVID-19 testing and treatment is available at Community Health Centers, also known as Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs), to all people whether you have health insurance or not and regardless of your immigration status. Find an FQHC near you [with this search tool](#) or [on 211's online list of community clinics](#).

Individuals with urgent symptoms may also continue to access services at acute care hospitals. The COVID-19 testing cost will be waived for uninsured individuals eligible for charity care. Information on the Charity Care Program can be found at: <https://www.nj.gov/health/charitycare>. You should talk to a medical provider before going to your local hospital.

For additional testing locations and information on COVID-19 testing in New Jersey, visit covid19.nj.gov/testing.

Additional Information

- https://www.nj.gov/health/cd/topics/covid2019_vaccination.shtml
- covid19.nj.gov/
- covid19.nj.gov/vaccine
- covid19.nj.gov/finder (search for vaccine appointments)
- COVID-19 Hotline 1-800-962-1253 (**for information only. NOT for scheduling vaccine appointments**)
- Call [855-568-0545](tel:855-568-0545) for assistance with the NJ Vaccine Scheduling System (NJVSS) and vaccine and testing appointment support. Hours of operation: (10a-6p, M-F; 10a-4p, Sa)
- Call 856-429-1168 to get appointment assistance for seniors 65 and older.