



COVID-19 Vaccine

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

How are COVID-19 vaccines being allocated?

Vaccine allocations are being distributed proportionately based on county population. At this time, the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) is making all vaccine allocation decisions due to a limited number of available doses and a short turnaround time between when doses are available in the vaccine ordering system and when orders are required to be placed. We anticipate that vaccine allocation may shift to the local public health level. Enrolled providers are able to communicate directly with the state on anticipated needs; however, there are a limited number of doses available each week.

Who can get the COVID-19 vaccine?

The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has provided Emergency Use Authorization (EUA) for both the Pfizer and Moderna vaccines. The Pfizer vaccine can be given to people 16 years old and older and the Moderna vaccine can be given to people 18 years old and older. Currently, there is no COVID-19 vaccine approved for use in children less than 16 years old.

Who is eligible to get vaccinated?

Due to the limited supply of vaccines in the country and state, the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment has developed a distribution chart. As the state provides guidance on who is eligible, local providers then work within their capability and capacity to get the vaccines out the identified population. These guidelines do have some flexibility to allow for providers to avoid wasting any vaccines. To see the current phase visit:

<https://covid19.colorado.gov/vaccine>.

How do people age 70 and older get vaccinated?

Governor Jared Polis recently announced that Colorado residents age 70 and older are eligible to receive the COVID-19 vaccine. To learn more about vaccination options for Thornton residents please visit:

www.gocot.net/covid19vaccine

Is the COVID-19 vaccine safe for women who are pregnant, considering pregnancy or breastfeeding?

Data is not currently available regarding the safety and effectiveness of the COVID-19 vaccine for those that are pregnant or breastfeeding. Pregnant and breastfeeding women may choose to receive the COVID-19 vaccine, but Tri-County Health Department recommends that you talk to your doctor to see if getting the COVID-19 vaccine is right for you.

Is the COVID-19 vaccine safe for those with immunocompromising conditions?

Those with HIV infection, other immunocompromising conditions or who take immunosuppressive medications can take the vaccine. Although there is less data regarding safety and efficacy in these groups, it is unlikely to be different than those without these conditions. There is a potential for reduced immune response and lower protection. Tri-County Health Department recommends that you talk to your personal doctor if you have concerns about the COVID-19 vaccine.

Is the COVID-19 vaccine safe if I am currently on medications or have an existing medical condition?

Tri-County Health Department recommends individuals with underlying medical conditions get the vaccine. However, if you have concerns, they recommend that you speak with your personal doctor before getting the vaccine.

Do I need to get a COVID-19 vaccine if I've already had the virus?

Tri-County Health Department recommends that everyone get a COVID-19 vaccine when it is available to you, even if you already had COVID-19.

How many doses are required for the COVID-19 vaccine?

Both the Pfizer and Moderna vaccines require 2 doses. The second dose of the Pfizer vaccine is administered 21 days after your first dose and the second dose of the Moderna vaccine is administered 28 days after the first dose.

How much will a COVID-19 vaccine reduce the risks or complications of COVID-19?

Current results from clinical trials have shown that the COVID-19 vaccines have up to a 94 to 95 percent efficacy rate in preventing illness from COVID-19. The studies suggest that getting a COVID-19 vaccine may prevent hospitalization, even if you do get COVID-19. Experts are predicting that getting vaccinated may also protect the people around you, especially those at increased risk for severe illness from COVID-19.

What are the side-effects of the COVID-19 vaccine?

Side-effects from both the Pfizer and Moderna vaccines are generally mild to moderate and may include local pain, redness or irritation in the shot area. Some people may also experience fever, headache, fatigue or chills after vaccination, which will lessen after a few days. Severe allergic reactions were not common during COVID-19 vaccine trials. However, if you have a history of a severe allergic reaction to another vaccine, we recommend that you talk to your doctor about the safety of the COVID-19 vaccine for you.

Will the COVID-19 vaccine cause me to get the virus?

No. Both the Pfizer and Moderna vaccines do not contain the live virus. Getting the vaccine will also not cause you to test positive for COVID-19.

Can I get COVID-19 even after getting the vaccine?

Both the Pfizer and Moderna COVID-19 vaccines require 2 doses spaced 21 (Pfizer) to 28 (Moderna) days apart. And because it often takes a few weeks for the body to build immunity after getting the vaccine, a person could still be infected with COVID-19 just before or just after getting the vaccine. This is because the vaccine has not had enough time to provide protection. Individuals should continue to practice social distancing and wearing a mask even after receiving the vaccine.

Do I need to still wear a mask after getting the vaccine?

Tri-County Health Department recommends that individuals continue to wear masks, wash your hands and to social distance even after receiving the COVID-19 vaccine as these are still best tools to help reduce your chance of being exposed to the virus or spreading it to others. Until the entire country has been vaccinated, getting the vaccine and following CDC recommendations to protect yourself and others, including wearing a mask, social distancing and frequent hand washing, will offer the best protection from COVID-19.