

What You Need to Know After Getting Your Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine



**NYC VACCINE FOR ALL:
SAFE, FREE, EASY**

nyc.gov/covidvaccine

Before you leave the vaccination site:

- If this was your first shot, make an appointment for your second shot.
- Make sure you get a vaccination card with the name of the vaccine you got and date you received it. Bring the card to your second-dose appointment. Take a picture or make a copy of it, and keep the original in a safe place.

What are the side effects of the vaccine?

Common side effects are soreness or swelling where you got the shot, headache, body aches, tiredness and fever. Side effects are more common after the second shot and less common in older adults. Side effects usually:

- Are mild to moderate and last about one to two days
- Start within the first three days after vaccination (the day after is most common)

What should I do if I have side effects?

Call your health care provider if you have side effects that concern you or do not go away after a few days, or if the redness or soreness where you got the shot increases after 24 hours. Talk to your provider about taking an over-the-counter medicine such as acetaminophen (Tylenol) or ibuprofen (Advil).

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Get the second shot even if you have side effects after the first shot, unless your provider tells you not to.

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You can report side effects through the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) v-safe smartphone tool at **vsafe.cdc.gov**. You can also report side effects to the Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System (VAERS), managed by the CDC and Food and Drug Administration, at **vaers.hhs.gov/reportevent.html** or by calling 800-822-7967. The information you report will be kept confidential.

There is a very low risk of inflammation of the heart (myocarditis) or tissue around the heart (pericarditis) after getting the Pfizer vaccine. Get medical care if you have these symptoms within one week of vaccination:

- Chest pain
- Shortness of breath
- Fast-beating, fluttering or pounding heart

Tell the health care provider you received the Pfizer vaccine.

Is it possible to have an allergic reaction to the vaccine?

Allergic reactions to the shot are rare and generally start within a few minutes to one hour. Signs of a severe allergic reaction include difficulty breathing, swelling of the face and throat, fast heartbeat, a rash all over your body, dizziness and weakness. If you think you are having a severe allergic reaction, call **911** or go to the nearest hospital.

Does the second dose need to be the same type of vaccine as my first dose?

Yes. Since your first dose is Pfizer, your second dose must also be Pfizer.

What if I cannot make it to my second-dose appointment?

You should reschedule the appointment for as soon as possible after. Get your second dose no matter how much time has passed since your first dose.

Who should get a third dose or booster shot of the vaccine?

People who are moderately to severely immunocompromised due to a medical condition or treatment should get a third dose after their second dose.

Everyone who is eligible should get a booster shot. If you received two doses of Pfizer and are 18 years or older, you can get a booster shot of Pfizer or Moderna after your second dose. Youth 12 to 17 years old may only get the Pfizer booster.

For more information, visit [**on.nyc.gov/third-dose-vs-booster**](https://on.nyc.gov/third-dose-vs-booster).

When does the vaccine start working?

While you may get some protection after the first dose, the vaccine is more effective after two doses and much more effective after a booster shot. You are considered up to date with your vaccines after two doses of Pfizer (plus a third dose, if you are eligible) and a booster shot.

Will I be billed for the vaccine or health care visit?

No. If you have insurance, it may be billed, but you will not be charged a copay or any other fee for the vaccine.

Is my personal information protected?

Your personal information is confidential and protected. Basic information about you (such as your name, address, phone number, date of birth, race and ethnicity, vaccination date, and vaccine received) will be shared with the New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (NYC Health Department) as required by law.

Can I stop taking other COVID-19 precautions after I am vaccinated?

Once fully vaccinated, you can do some activities without a mask, particularly outdoors. However, we recommend you keep your mask on in all public indoor settings to protect yourself and others. Also, you must follow the mask requirements of any place you go, such as a business, school or workplace, and while on public transportation.

Where can I get
more information?



NYC Health Department:
nyc.gov/covidvaccine

New York State Department of Health:
covid19vaccine.health.ny.gov

CDC:
cdc.gov/covidvaccine



What if I have other questions?
Call your provider or **311**.



The NYC Health Department may change
recommendations as the situation evolves. **2.16.22**