



COVID-19 Vaccinations: Frequently Asked Questions

When can I get vaccinated against COVID-19?

COVID-19 vaccines are still in short supply. Public Health wants everyone to be vaccinated against COVID-19 by summer-fall 2021. Vaccination will be offered first to persons at highest risk due to age, medical conditions, and their work risks. Please watch for announcements about when vaccine is available for specific groups.

How many doses of COVID-19 vaccine do I need?

Two doses of vaccine given one month apart are recommended. People need the second dose to have full protection.

Will I need to wear a mask after I am vaccinated?

Yes. Until infection rates in the community are much lower, we will still need to take all of the current precautions including mask wearing, social distancing, performing frequent hand washing/sanitizing, and avoiding large crowds.

What age groups can be vaccinated?

TONHC currently has the Moderna vaccine, which is approved for adults, age 18 and over. Older adults age 55 and over are at higher risk to get sick and will be prioritized to be vaccinated first.

What are the side effects from COVID-19 vaccine?

As with other vaccines, the most common side effects are body aches, fever, headache, and fatigue that resolve in 24-48 hours. These occur more frequently after the second dose.

Will I test positive for COVID-19 after my vaccine?

No. The vaccine does not transmit or cause COVID-19 infection. It will not cause people to test positive from a nose swab.

Can I get COVID-19 from the vaccine?

No. People get COVID-19 from being around someone with the virus.

Can I get vaccinated for COVID-19 if I am sick?

No. If you are sick, please call TONHC for guidance. You might need to be tested for COVID-19. If you have recently tested positive for COVID-19, you should wait at least 10 days before getting vaccinated. If you are in quarantine due to an exposure, you should wait to finish quarantine before getting vaccinated.

Can I get a flu shot at the same time I get my COVID-19 vaccine?

No. You should wait 14 days between COVID-19 vaccine and other immunizations.



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Will I be forced to get a COVID-19 vaccine?

No. COVID-19 vaccine is voluntary. If many people choose to be vaccinated, the number of infections in this community will likely decrease. If you choose to be vaccinated, your individual chance of getting COVID will decrease AND your chance of having a serious infection will dramatically decrease.

Is COVID-19 vaccine safe?

Yes. COVID-19 vaccine has been shown in studies to be safe for many people. The most common side effects were body aches, fever, and fatigue that resolved after 24-48 hours. Harmful or serious side effects were rare. As with other vaccines, people should seek immediate medical attention if they experience any serious or harmful side effects.

If I have medical problems, can I be vaccinated?

Yes. Most people can be vaccinated. The only known reason not to be vaccinated is severe allergy to the vaccine. You may wish to have a discussion with your provider about the risks and benefits of COVID-19 vaccine to inform your decision.

If I am pregnant or trying to get pregnant, can I be vaccinated?

Yes. You can be vaccinated if you are pregnant or trying to become pregnant, per the recommendations by the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists and the Society for Maternal-Fetal Medicine. You may wish to have a discussion with your provider about the risks and benefits of COVID-19 vaccine to inform your decision.