# COVID-19 Vaccines

**Benefits and Side Effects**

COVID-19 vaccines are being developed as quickly as possible, and have gone through the same rigorous review and approval processes as any other vaccines to ensure their safety for use. Safety is a top priority, and there are many reasons to get vaccinated.

## Benefits of Getting a COVID-19 Vaccine

COVID-19 vaccines are 95 percent effective and will help protect you from getting COVID-19. You may have some side effects, which are normal signs that your body is building protection, and should go away in a few days. Don’t let side effects keep you from getting the vaccine and keeping you, your family and your community safe.

### Common Side Effects

- Pain and/or swelling at the injection site
- Fever, chills, tiredness or headache

### Helpful Tips

If you have pain or discomfort, talk to your doctor about taking an over-the-counter medicine, such as ibuprofen or acetaminophen.

- **To reduce pain and discomfort where you got the shot:**
  - Apply a clean, cool, wet washcloth over the area
  - Use or exercise your arm

- **To reduce discomfort from fever:**
  - Drink plenty of fluids
  - Dress lightly

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When to Call the Doctor

In most cases, discomfort from fever or pain is normal. Contact your doctor or health care provider if:
• redness or tenderness where you got the shot increases after 24 hours
• any side effects are worrying you or do not seem to be going away after a few days.

If you get a COVID-19 vaccine and you think you might be having a severe allergic reaction after leaving the vaccination site, seek immediate medical care by calling 911.


Schedule Your Second Shot

The approved vaccines require two shots. Don’t stop at the first shot. The maximum amount of immunity is only achieved after you take the second shot which is important as we build immunity to COVID-19 throughout our community.

Timing Between Shots

The timing between your first and second shot depends on which vaccine you received.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Vaccine</th>
<th>Timing Between Shots</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pfizer Vaccine</td>
<td>3 weeks (21 days)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Shot #1</td>
<td>Shot #2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Moderna Vaccine</td>
<td>4 weeks (28 days)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Shot #1</td>
<td>Shot #2</td>
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For more information on the state’s COVID-19 Dial: https://covid19.colorado.gov/data/covid-19-dial
For more information and specifics on Denver’s response to the COVID-19 pandemic: Denvergov.org/COVID19