

Frequently Asked Questions

about the COVID-19 Vaccination



**Vaccines
Protect Us All**

THE TOMPKINS COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT is urging everyone in our community to get vaccinated for COVID-19 when they are eligible.

Everyone has a part in ensuring that the community stays healthy and safe. Please continue to wear masks, maintain distance, wash hands, and follow gathering guidance.

Are the vaccines safe?

Yes. The COVID-19 vaccines have gone through the same rigorous review that all vaccines must follow in the U.S. In New York, the State's independent COVID-19 Clinical Advisory Task Force also approved these COVID-19 vaccines as safe and effective. While the vaccine is in use, the FDA and the CDC are constantly monitoring for new side effects.

Can children be vaccinated with the current vaccines?

No. The first round of clinical trials did not include individuals under age 16 years for the Pfizer vaccine, under 18 for the Moderna, or under 18 for the J&J. As such, none of these have been authorized for use with children. Clinical trials for these age groups are already underway.

Should I get the vaccine if I have had a coronavirus infection?

Yes. The science shows that the vaccine provides better and longer-lasting protection than the defenses your body builds up when you were infected.

Will getting vaccinated prevent me from getting sick with COVID-19?

Most likely. Getting vaccinated will prevent you from getting a severe case of COVID-19, or a case that puts you in the hospital. There is still a small chance you could get a mild case.

What if I am pregnant or breastfeeding?

All of the currently authorized COVID-19 vaccines can be offered to people who are pregnant or breastfeeding. If you have questions, discuss this with your practitioner. There is currently no evidence that any vaccines, including COVID-19 vaccines, cause fertility problems.

If I get vaccinated, will I test positive on future COVID-19 viral tests?

No. Authorized vaccines will not cause a positive on any of the tests used to detect a current infection.

Could I become infected with COVID-19 if I get a vaccine?

No. None of the vaccines authorized or under review for use in the U.S. are made with the live virus that causes a COVID-19 infection or would make you sick.

Can I infect others even after I'm vaccinated?

Maybe. This is still being studied, so you should continue taking all precautions when around others who are not in your household, such as wear a mask, maintain distance, avoid gatherings, wash hands well and often.

Are the vaccines effective against COVID-19 "variants?"

There is still only limited information about how well the COVID-19 vaccines work against known variants. Scientists believe they will provide protection against the variants, though the effectiveness rate may not be as high, and higher coverage rates may be needed.

What are the side effects of the vaccine?

The vaccination is an injection (shot) like the flu vaccine. The most common side effects are injection site pain or soreness, tiredness, headache, muscle pain, fever. These symptoms go away after a few days.

When can I be vaccinated?

Now. Everyone age 16 and over (16+) who lives, works, or goes to school in New York State is eligible to be vaccinated here.

How much will it cost to get vaccinated against COVID-19?

Nothing. There is no charge or co-pay to be vaccinated. However, if you have health insurance or Medicare Part B, bring your card with you to the clinic.

What do I need to bring to the vaccination site?

You need to bring identification that shows your date of birth and that you are a resident of New York State. If you are not a resident, you need to bring documents that show you work or go to school in New York.

When do I get the second dose of the vaccine?

Your second dose is 28 days after your first for the Moderna vaccine, 21 days for the Pfizer vaccine. You will make the appointment for your second before you leave the vaccination clinic. The second dose must be given at the same location where you got the first. If you get the Johnson & Johnson (J&J) vaccine, there is no second dose.

For additional questions
call 2-1-1 (877-211-8667)

Or email COVID19vaccines@tompkins-co.org



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www.tompkinscountyny.gov/health