

We've got you covered



Inside: Answers
to your COVID-19
vaccine questions

4 things to know about getting the COVID-19 vaccine



1 The vaccine
is free.



2 Anyone 16 and
older who lives,
works, or studies in
Massachusetts is
now eligible to get
a vaccine.



3 You can get the
vaccine if you are
undocumented. Getting
a vaccine will not impact
you or your family's
immigration status.



4 To find out how to
schedule a vaccine
appointment, visit
mass.gov/covid-19-vaccine.

Dear member,

I am writing to let you know that all members age 16 and over are now eligible to get the COVID-19 vaccine.

The vaccine is covered at **no cost to you**. As a doctor, I am confident that the vaccines are safe and effective. I have had my COVID-19 vaccine, and I'm excited that you can get yours for your health, the health of your family, and our health as a community.

The arrival of more vaccines is inspiring all of us in the medical community. We are hopeful that together, we can fight this pandemic effectively.

Sincerely,



Farah Shafi, MD
Deputy Medical Officer



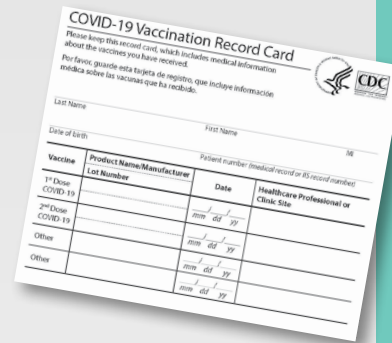
Are there vaccine side effects?

Some people may have side effects after being vaccinated, but they should go away in a few days. They are normal signs that your body is building protection.

The most common side effects are minor and include tiredness, headache, pain at the injection site, muscle and/or joint pain, chills, nausea and/or vomiting, and fever.

How do we know the vaccine is safe and effective?

- The vaccines were authorized by the Federal Food and Drug Administration only after they were shown to be safe and effective in studies.
- Since the vaccines were approved, millions of people of different races and ethnicities have been vaccinated, and most have only experienced mild side effects.
- Vaccine developers used existing research and information on coronavirus, a family of viruses known and studied for a long time.
- We encourage you to visit www.cdc.gov or mass.gov/covid-19-vaccine to get the most up-to-date information about the COVID-19 vaccine.



Debunking vaccine-related myths

Let's get straight to the facts

MYTH

FACT

I can get COVID-19 from the vaccine.



There is no live virus in any of the approved COVID-19 vaccines. The vaccine cannot make you sick with COVID-19.

I don't need to get the vaccine if I already had COVID-19.



Public health experts do not yet know how long you are protected from getting sick again after recovering from COVID-19. You should be vaccinated if you already had COVID-19 and have recovered.

The vaccine isn't safe for people who are trying to become pregnant.



There is no evidence that COVID-19 vaccine affects fertility or poses a risk to a person trying to become pregnant in the short or long term.

It's okay to stop wearing masks and social distancing after I get the vaccine.



You should still take preventive measures, such as wearing a mask, practicing social distancing, and washing your hands, after receiving the COVID-19 vaccine.

A COVID-19 vaccine will alter my DNA.



The COVID-19 vaccine cannot change or interact with your DNA.

Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and mass.gov/covid-19-vaccine - March 2021

Learn where to schedule a vaccine appointment

On April 19, all people age 16 and over became eligible for the vaccine. There are many places to get the vaccine, including mass vaccination sites, community health centers, pharmacies, and other locations in your community.

The state now has several ways to schedule an appointment at mass.gov/covid-19-vaccine including pre-registration for the mass vaccination sites or searching for other sites through vaxfinder.mass.gov.

If you cannot access or use the Internet, you can call 211 (877-211-6277) for help scheduling an appointment. Your health care provider may also offer vaccines.

