

Vaccination Resources

If you have additional questions, please reach out to your Express Scripts account representative. Members can learn more at [express-scripts.com](https://www.express-scripts.com) or by calling the number on the back of their member ID card.

Frequently asked questions about the Pharmacy Vaccination Program:

1. How can I get a vaccination?

Before you visit the pharmacy for a vaccine you should...

- Check with your plan administrator about vaccine coverage and copayment information, if applicable.
- Make sure the pharmacy you use is part of your Express Scripts participating pharmacy network. If you're not sure, log in to [express-scripts.com](https://www.express-scripts.com) and click Find a Pharmacy from the menu under Prescriptions. You can also use the Express Scripts® mobile app to locate a participating pharmacy.
- Call the pharmacy to verify their current vaccination schedule, vaccine availability, and any age restrictions. Please note, age and administration requirements may vary by state.

When you get to the pharmacy...

- Be sure to present your prescription member ID card at the time of service.
- Be sure to get your vaccine from the pharmacist at the pharmacy, not from an on-site clinic.

2. Which vaccines are covered?

Some of the most common vaccinations, like flu vaccines, are covered through your prescription plan. Check with your plan administrator about specific coverage and copayment information. Additionally, for COVID-19 information, see the COVID-19 Vaccines section in this document.

3. Can I get a flu shot at my local pharmacy?

Some of the most common vaccinations, like flu vaccines, are covered through your prescription plan. Check with your plan administrator about specific coverage and copayment information.

If flu vaccines are covered, you and anyone covered by your plan can go to a local participating pharmacy to get the flu shot. States may have specific regulations regarding age restrictions, which vaccines can be administered by a certified pharmacist and if a prescription is required.

4. Why should I get vaccinated?

Immunizations, or vaccines, help protect you, your family and friends, and the community from contracting and spreading vaccine-preventable diseases like seasonal flu, whooping cough, measles, shingles, pneumonia and COVID-19. [According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention \(CDC\)](https://www.cdc.gov), we vaccinate not only to protect ourselves and our children from seasonal illnesses like the flu, we vaccinate to protect our future because vaccinations are one of the best ways to put an end to the serious side effects of certain diseases.

Find out more of what the CDC has to say about the importance of vaccines at [cdc.gov/vaccines](https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines).

5. Who in my family can get vaccinated at a participating pharmacy?

Everyone covered by your prescription plan is eligible to receive covered vaccines at a participating pharmacy. States may have specific regulations regarding age restrictions, which vaccines can be administered by a certified pharmacist and if a prescription is required. Please check with your local network pharmacy for more information.

6. Are COVID-19 vaccines safe?

Yes, they are. Here are a few reasons why:

Volunteers stepped up. Nearly 120,000 people nationwide volunteered to test the vaccines before they became widely available.¹

Hundreds of millions of doses safely administered. Hundreds of millions of Americans have been safely vaccinated with at least one dose, with over 224 million people fully vaccinated.²

It didn't happen overnight. The COVID-19 vaccines have been made possible thanks to decades of related research from other viruses and vaccines.

Billions funded the fast track. The government and private companies contributed billions of dollars to fund effective and accelerated research and clinical trials.

Safety at the center. In addition to the FDA's Emergency Use Authorization (EUA), the vaccines were evaluated by the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP), which appoints independent reviewers from various fields, like immunology, pediatrics, internal medicine and more, to check for safety and effectiveness.³ The FDA and CDC continue monitoring the vaccines' safety today.

How many shots do I need? Do I need a booster?

It depends on the vaccine you receive and a few other things like your age and health. Talk with your doctor to understand more about the vaccine you'll be getting.

What are the side effects?

The most common side effect reported is arm pain at the shot site. In addition, some people experience fatigue, headaches and muscle pain. Having these symptoms is a good sign because it means your immune system is working. Severe side effects are extremely rare. Like most other vaccines, the CDC does not anticipate long-term side effects related to COVID-19 vaccines.⁴

What if I'm high risk?

If you have certain medical conditions, you could be at a higher risk of contracting COVID-19 and having severe symptoms. In general, if you're older or have other health conditions, it's important to get vaccinated to protect yourself from getting sick and maybe even hospitalized. Also continue to take other preventive measures like wearing a mask, social distancing and properly washing your hands.⁵

What do I need to do before my appointment?

Before you visit the pharmacy for your COVID-19 vaccines you should...

- Call your pharmacy before visiting to make sure they are able to administer the COVID-19 vaccines and they have vaccines available and to schedule an appointment if one is required.
 - If your local pharmacy doesn't have COVID-19 vaccines available, don't worry. You can get your vaccine at any pharmacy at no cost to you.
- Remember that COVID-19 vaccine availability may vary due to staffing and/or other factors.

1. Cassidy, D. (2020, July 20). Over 100,000 people volunteered for Covid-19 vaccine trial in less than two weeks. Retrieved April 12, 2021, from <https://www.forbes.com/sites/danielcassady/2020/07/20/over-100000-people-volunteered-for-covid-19-vaccine-trial-in-less-than-two-weeks/?sh=2fe489d22e87>
2. <https://covid.cdc.gov/covid-data-tracker/#vaccinations>
3. <https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/acip/members/index.html>
4. <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV/index.html>
5. Certain medical conditions and risk for severe covid-19 illness. (n.d.). Retrieved April 12, 2021, from <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/need-extra-precautions/people-with-medical-conditions.html>