What You Need to Know After Getting Your Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine

NYC VACCINE FOR ALL:
SAFE, FREE, EASY

nyc.gov/covidvaccine

Before you leave the vaccination site:

- If this is your first shot, make an appointment to get your second shot. You must get your second shot at the same place you got your first shot. You should make your second dose appointment 21 to 42 days after your first shot.

- Make sure you get a vaccination card. It will say which vaccine you got and the date you received it. Bring this card to your second dose appointment and check that it is updated to show both doses. This is an important record. Take a picture or make a copy of it, and keep the original in a safe place.

What are the side effects of the vaccine?

Common side effects are soreness or swelling on the arm where you got the shot, headache, body aches, tiredness and fever. Side effects are more common after the second shot and less common in older adults. Side effects usually:

- Are mild to moderate
- Start within the first three days after vaccination (the day after vaccination is the most common)
- Last about one to two days after they begin

What should I do if I have side effects?

Call your health care provider if you have side effects that concern you or do not go away after a few days, or if the redness or soreness where you got the shot increases after 24 hours. Talk to your provider about taking an over-the-counter medicine, such as acetaminophen (Tylenol) or ibuprofen (Advil).

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Get the second shot even if you have side effects after the first shot, unless your provider tells you not to.

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You can report side effects through the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) v-safe smartphone app. To learn more and sign up, visit **vsafe.cdc.gov**. You can also report side effects to the Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System (VAERS), managed by the CDC and Food and Drug Administration. Reports can be made at **vaers.hhs.gov/reportevent.html** or by calling 800-822-7967. The information you report will be kept confidential.

Is it possible to have an allergic reaction to the vaccine?

Allergic reactions are uncommon and generally start within a few minutes to an hour of getting the shot. Signs of a severe allergic reaction include difficulty breathing, swelling of your face and throat, fast heartbeat, a rash all over your body, dizziness and weakness. If you think you are having a severe allergic reaction, call **911** or go to the nearest hospital.

Does the second dose need to be the same type of vaccine as my first dose?

Yes. Since you got the Pfizer vaccine, your second dose must also be the Pfizer vaccine.

What if I cannot make it to my second dose appointment?

You should reschedule your appointment for as soon as possible after. Get your second dose no matter how much time has passed since your first dose.
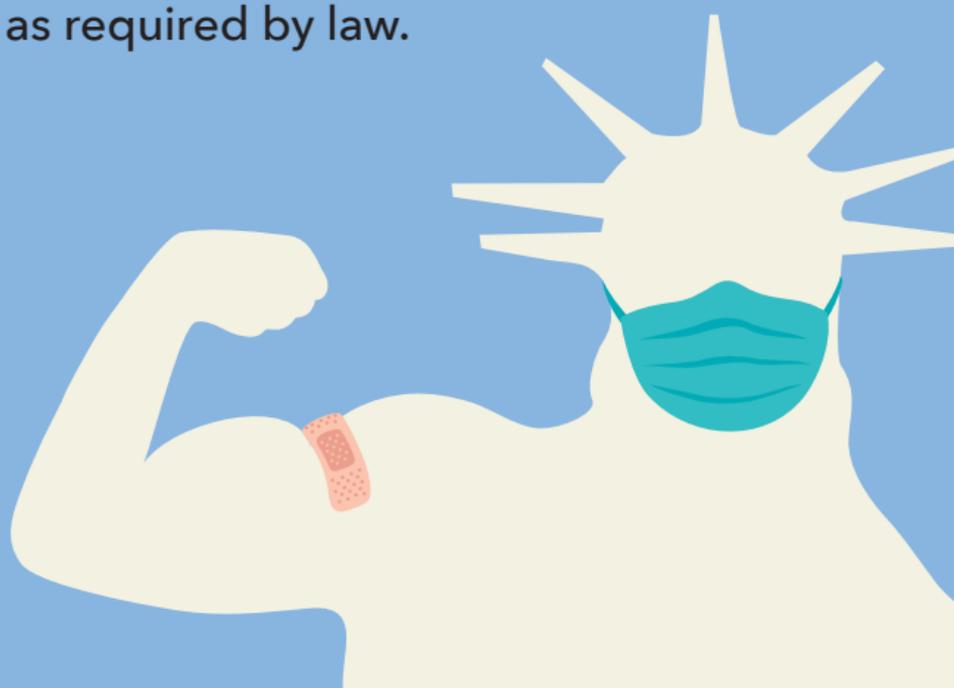
When does the vaccine start working?

While you may get some protection after the first dose, the vaccine is much more effective after two doses. You will not have full protection from the vaccine until two weeks after your second dose.

Will I be billed for the vaccine or health care visit?

No. Your insurance may be billed, but you will not be charged a copay or any other fee for the vaccine.

Is my personal information protected?

Your personal information is confidential and protected. Basic information about you (such as your name, address, phone number, date of birth, race and ethnicity, vaccination date, and vaccine received) will be shared with the New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (NYC Health Department) as required by law.

Can I stop taking other COVID-19 precautions after I am vaccinated?

You should still practice prevention measures after vaccination:

- Stay home if you are sick or test positive for COVID-19.
- Wash your hands and use hand sanitizer often.
- Stay at least 6 feet from others.
- Wear a face covering when in public indoor spaces, crowded outdoor spaces or around people at increased risk for COVID-19.

Once fully vaccinated, you can gather with a small number of people without face coverings and physical distancing, unless you are in a public indoor space. You also do not need to quarantine following an exposure or get tested, unless you have COVID-19 symptoms. Visit **nyc.gov/covidvaccine** for more information.

What if I have other questions?

You can call your provider or **311**.

Where can I get more information?

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NYC Health Department:
nyc.gov/covidvaccine

New York State Department of Health:
covid19vaccine.health.ny.gov

CDC:
cdc.gov/covidvaccine

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