COVID-19 vaccines are safe and effective. Read this information to learn more. Talk to your doctor, nurse or pharmacist if you have questions or concerns.

Getting the vaccine at Ohio State

You will be given an information sheet about the vaccine you are getting and a vaccine card. The vaccine is given as a shot with a needle into the muscle of your upper arm.

If you are not well, or have a fever of 100 degrees F or higher, you should wait until you are better to get the vaccine.

Plan for your appointment to take about 1 hour. You will need to wait for 15 to 30 minutes after getting the shot for a nurse to check for any reaction.

Your vaccine may be 1 or 2 doses.

If your vaccine needs a second dose: You will need to get your second dose 3 to 4 weeks after the first dose, based on the brand of vaccine you are given. Your appointment will be made before you leave today.

Be sure to get the second dose of the same brand of vaccine to get the best protection. You will have some protection after the first dose, but it is greater after the second dose.

Side effects

The vaccines do not contain any live virus, so you cannot get COVID-19 from the vaccine. You also are not able to pass COVID-19 on to anyone else by getting the vaccine.

Because the vaccines teach your body’s immune system how to recognize and fight the COVID-19 virus, you may have some signs that the vaccine is working.

If you need another appointment

Come back for your second dose of vaccine on:

___________ at ________.

If you need to call about your appointment or have questions

Call Ohio State’s Vaccine Hotline at 614-688-VAXX (8299) and select option 1, 2 or 3:

Option 1: If you have been a patient at Ohio State and need to change, cancel or have questions about your appointment.

Option 2: If you have not been a patient at Ohio State and need to change, cancel or have questions about your appointment.

Option 3: To talk to a nurse about vaccine side effects or other health concerns.

Need a ride?

If you need a free ride to your next COVID-19 vaccine appointment, you can ask the person who schedules your appointment, call us at 614-688-6612 or visit go.osu.edu.freeride.
Side effects may include:

- Fever or chills
- Muscle and joint pain
- Headache
- Tiredness
- Nausea, vomiting or diarrhea

These signs may occur the day after the vaccine and last for 1 to 2 days. You may expect to have more side effects after your second dose of vaccine.

Common site reactions

The most common side effects at the site where the vaccine is given include pain, swelling or redness. These often improve over the first 2 days. Some people see redness and swelling return a week later, but all redness and swelling should be gone by 2 weeks after the vaccine was given.

If you have site reactions for more than 2 weeks, or you have other questions about side effects, call Ohio State’s Vaccine Hotline at 614-688-8299 or check with your doctor.

Vaccine protection

Maximum protection will be reached 2 weeks after your 1-dose vaccine or 2 weeks after your second dose of a 2-dose vaccine.

More study is needed to find out how long the vaccine provides protection. Additional vaccines may be needed in the future.

Keep taking all precautions until you are fully vaccinated.

Keep the vaccine card you get today.

To learn more

- go.osu.edu/COVIDVaccine
- cdc.gov/coronavirus
- coronavirus.ohio.gov
- Ohio Department of Health Hotline: 1-833-4-ASK-ODH (1-833-427-5634)

Can we improve?

While your body is building protection, help us continue to improve our patients’ vaccination experience by leaving us a review for the location you got your vaccine. You will need a Google account to do this.

go.osu.edu/shotreview