

UCI Health

What You Need To Know After Getting the COVID-19 Vaccine

IMPORTANT NEXT STEPS

- Vaccine-related symptoms or side effects are common within the first few days after vaccination, but can occur later. If you develop serious symptoms such as hives, wheezing, shortness of breath, or difficulty swallowing, call 911. If your symptoms are not an emergency, call your primary care provider's office.
- You may download a copy of your COVID vaccination record by going to the Health Summary Folder in MyChart. Login to MyChart at <https://www.ucihealth.org/mychart>

Which symptoms are vaccine-related?

Pain at the injection site and mild-to-moderate non-infectious "flu-like" symptoms are known side-effects from the vaccine and may be more common after the second dose.

If the following symptoms occur within **3 days** of vaccination, these are probably vaccine-related: fatigue, headache, muscle aches, joint pain, chills, fever, nausea, and vomiting.

The following symptoms are NOT due to the vaccine: cough, shortness of breath, sore throat, loss of taste or smell, or diarrhea. If you develop these, please call your doctor to see if you should be tested for COVID.

After 3 days, you should discuss any medical symptoms with your doctor.

What should I do if I have side effects?

Unless your doctor told you not to take the following over-the-counter medications, you can use pain/fever reducing medications such as acetaminophen (Tylenol), or ibuprofen (Motrin, Advil) if you become uncomfortable from vaccine-related side effects.

What if I have an allergic reaction?

You will be asked to remain in the vaccination area for 15 minutes for observation after receiving your dose. If you have a history of serious allergic reactions, you should be observed for 30 minutes. Emergency allergy medication is available at the vaccination site. If you have left the site, call 911 for serious allergic reactions. Otherwise, if not urgent, call your doctor's office.

Can the COVID-19 vaccine give me COVID-19? Is there live virus in the vaccine?

No. There is no live virus and the vaccine cannot give you or anyone else COVID-19. The vaccine does NOT make you contagious.

Am I protected as soon as I receive the vaccine? Can I stop wearing a mask?

No. You will not receive full protection until 7-14 days after the second dose (depending on the manufacturer). Even if you are vaccinated, you are required to mask and follow all current public health orders related to COVID-19 until you are notified otherwise. Experts believe 70-85% of the population needs to be vaccinated before the pandemic will be over.

How will I get my second dose?

You will receive an email reminder when your second dose is due and will be able to schedule your appointment via MyChart or through <https://vaccine.ucihealth.org/>. The second dose is due in 3 weeks for the Pfizer vaccine and in 4 weeks for the Moderna vaccine. You must receive both doses to get the full 94-95% protection seen in the trials.

Will the vaccine make me test positive for COVID-19 if I am tested after being vaccinated?

No. The vaccine will not cause you to test positive on viral tests for COVID-19, such as PCR tests or antigen tests. However, the vaccine will likely cause you to test positive for antibody tests (also called serology) since the vaccine helps build antibodies to COVID-19.