

**PROTECT YOURSELF,
YOUR COMMUNITY, AND
YOUR LOVED ONES.
GET VACCINATED
AGAINST COVID-19.**

Q. When should older adults get a COVID-19 vaccine?

Because older adults are at higher risk of severe COVID-19, the CDC recommends that adults age 65 and older get vaccinated as soon as possible.

Q. What can I expect at my COVID-19 vaccination appointment?

- When getting your vaccine, wear a mask and stay at least 6 feet apart from others.
- You should receive a paper or electronic version of a fact sheet that tells you more about the specific COVID-19 vaccine you are being offered.
- The fact sheet contains information to help you understand the risks and benefits of receiving that specific vaccine.
- You should receive a vaccination record card or printout that tells you which COVID-19 vaccine you received, the date you received it, the vaccine lot number, and where you received it.
- You should bring the card with you for your second vaccine shot, if two shots are needed.
- Keep the record card in a safe place in case you need it later to show you have been vaccinated.
- You should be monitored onsite for at least 15 minutes after being vaccinated for a rare but serious allergic reaction.

Q. Will cost be a barrier to receiving COVID-19 vaccine?

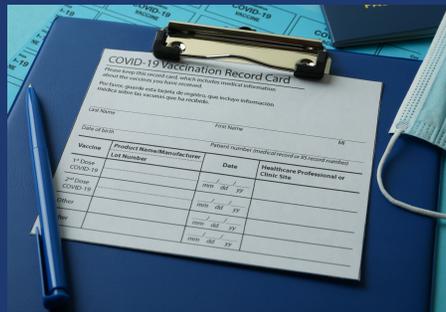
No. There is no cost associated with COVID-19 vaccine for facility recipients.

Q. Will residents have to get two shots to be protected from COVID-19?

People who receive the Pfizer-BioNTech or Moderna COVID-19 vaccine should get two shots. The first shot starts building protection, but people need a second shot a few weeks later to get the most protection the vaccine can offer.

People who receive the Janssen (Johnson & Johnson) COVID-19 vaccine should only get one shot.

To make an appointment, visit [sbcovid19.com](https://www.sbcovid19.com) or call (909) 387-3911.



Contact us

**San Bernardino County
Department of Public Health**

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Healthcare and Congregate Living Facility Residents and Loved Ones

**ANSWERING COMMON
QUESTIONS ABOUT
COVID-19 VACCINES**



COVID-19 Response

Q. Can residents and loved ones feel confident that COVID-19 vaccines are safe?

Yes. The safety of COVID-19 vaccines is a top priority. All of the vaccines that will be used have gone through the same safety tests and meet the same safety standards as other vaccines. To help make important medical products, including vaccines, available quickly during the COVID-19 pandemic, the U.S Food and Drug Administration (FDA) can use what is known as an Emergency Use Authorization (EUA). For an EUA to be issued for a vaccine, for which there is adequate manufacturing information to ensure quality and consistency, FDA must determine that the known and potential benefits outweigh the known and potential risks of the vaccine. The U.S. vaccine safety system monitors the safety of all vaccines, including COVID-19 vaccines, to ensure they are as safe as possible. As people begin receiving COVID-19 vaccinations, CDC and FDA will continue to closely monitor vaccine safety. Learn more about COVID-19 vaccine safety monitoring at [cdc.gov](https://www.cdc.gov).



Q. Do the benefits of vaccination outweigh the possible risks?

After a review of all the available information, ACIP and CDC agreed that the lifesaving benefits of vaccinating facility residents against COVID-19 outweigh the possible risks. COVID-19 vaccines that are being delivered to facilities were tested in large studies that included adults age 65 and older. The study results showed that the vaccines were safe and provided protection from COVID-19 in these older adults.

Q. What are the possible side effects?

The most common side effect is pain at the injection site, and some individuals experience symptoms like fever and chills. These side effects tend to be mild to moderate and go away quickly. These side effects are signs that the immune system is doing exactly what it is supposed to do. It is working and building up protection against the disease. Serious side effects after vaccination were very rare.

Q. How do residents and their loved ones report possible side effects?

It is important to notify your healthcare provider if you are experiencing side effects after COVID-19 vaccination. Facility residents and their loved ones are encouraged to report any adverse events immediately. CDC has also developed a smartphone tool called v-safe. Facility residents with smartphones have the option to use this tool to tell CDC if they have any side effects after getting a COVID-19 vaccine. If residents report serious side effects, someone from CDC will call to follow up.

Q. Will residents still need to wear masks after receiving COVID-19 vaccine?

Yes. COVID-19 vaccines will be an important tool to help stop the pandemic. However, everyone, including facility staff and residents, should continue to follow all current guidance, including facility policies on visitation, to protect themselves and others. Stopping a pandemic requires using all the tools available. Vaccines work with your immune system so your body will be ready to fight the virus if you are exposed. Other steps, like covering your nose and mouth with a mask and staying at least 6 feet away from others, help reduce your chance of being exposed to the virus or spreading it to others.

Q. Can I get a COVID-19 vaccine if I have a medical condition or take medications for other medical conditions?

People with underlying medical conditions can receive the FDA-authorized COVID-19 vaccines as long as they haven't had an immediate or severe allergic reaction to a COVID-19 vaccine or to any of the ingredients in the vaccines. Vaccination is an important consideration for people with certain underlying medical conditions because they are at increased risk for severe COVID-19.

