

Q. Why is it important that staff receive the COVID-19 vaccine, even if facility residents are vaccinated?

You are on the front lines and risk being exposed to COVID-19 each day on the job. Early vaccination can protect not only you from getting sick, but also help protect residents and your family members who may have underlying health conditions that put them at risk for severe illness from COVID-19.

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



Q. What if I receive the first dose of COVID-19 vaccine at my facility's onsite clinic, but then miss the clinic for the second dose? How do I finish the vaccine series?

The Pfizer-BioNTech and Moderna Vaccine both require two shots to provide the best protection against COVID-19, and the shots are given a few weeks apart. 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. Every person who receives a COVID-19 vaccine will also receive a vaccination record card that indicates the date the first dose was administered and which vaccine they received. If you receive the first dose of COVID-19 vaccine at your facility but are not there to receive the second dose, you may bring the vaccination record card to another provider in your area to complete the vaccine series.

The Janssen Vaccine does not require a second dose.

To schedule an appointment, visit sbccovid19.com or call (909) 387-3911.



**San Bernardino County
Department of Public Health**

For questions or to schedule an appointment, visit sbccovid19.com or call (909) 387-3911



Healthcare and Congregate Living Facility Staff

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



COVID-19 Response



Q. Can I feel confident that COVID-19 vaccines are safe?

Yes. The safety of COVID-19 vaccines is a top priority. COVID-19 vaccines are being held to the same safety standards as all other vaccines. All COVID-19 vaccines being administered to staff and residents were tested in clinical trials involving tens of thousands of people to make sure they meet safety standards and protect adults of different ages, races, and ethnicities. There were no serious safety concerns. CDC and the FDA will keep monitoring the vaccines to look for safety issues after they are authorized and in use.

Q. Are COVID-19 vaccines being held to the same safety standards as other vaccines in the United States?

Yes. COVID-19 vaccines are being held to the same safety standards as all other vaccines. Several expert and independent groups evaluate the safety of vaccines being given to people in the United States. After a review of all the available information, [CDC](#) and [ACIP](#) agree that the lifesaving benefits of vaccinating SNF residents against COVID-19 outweigh the possible risks.

Q. Will I still need to wear masks, gowns, or personal protective equipment in the facility after receiving COVID-19 vaccination?

Yes. COVID-19 vaccines will be an important tool to help stop the pandemic. However, staff members who have been vaccinated should continue to follow all [current guidance](#) to protect themselves and others, including proper use of [personal protective equipment](#). Because we need to use all the prevention tools available, you should continue to cover your nose and mouth with a [mask](#) when around others, avoid [close contact](#) with people who are sick, [stay 6 feet away from others](#), avoid crowds, and [clean your hands often](#). The combination of getting vaccinated and following CDC's recommendations to protect yourself and others will offer the best protection from COVID-19.

Q. What happens if multiple staff members are out at the same time because of side effects after COVID-19 vaccination?

We understand your concerns about potential workforce shortages resulting from vaccine side effects. Facility administrators may consider staggered administration, so that not all staff members are vaccinated on the same day. For example, facilities may have half of the staff vaccinated at the first onsite clinic day and the other half vaccinated at a second on-site clinic day or in the community at health department clinics run according to your jurisdiction's plan to vaccinate. There will be no cost associated with COVID-19 vaccine for recipients, no matter where you get vaccinated.

Q. Will I experience side effects after I get the COVID-19 vaccine?

There may be side effects after getting the COVID-19 vaccination, but they should go away within a few days. Possible side effects include a sore arm, headache, fever, or body aches. This does not mean you have COVID-19. Side effects are signs that the vaccine is working to build immunity. Call your healthcare provider if they don't go away in a week or you have more serious symptoms. You and your coworkers are encouraged to report any adverse events immediately. After receiving the vaccine, staff is encouraged to enroll in [v-safe](#). This is a smartphone tool you can use to tell CDC if you have any side effects after getting a COVID-19 vaccine. If you report serious side effects, someone from CDC will call to follow up.

Q. Should I be concerned about side effects that may develop following COVID-19 vaccination, and will I need to miss work?

It can be hard to tell the difference between side effects from the vaccine and symptoms that you could have if you were infected with COVID-19. Your side effects from the vaccine could be mistaken for having COVID-19. So, it will be important to know the difference between the symptoms:

Symptoms that CAN occur after either COVID-19 vaccination or infection include:

- Fever, fatigue, headache, chills, muscles aches, and joint pain

Symptoms NOT likely to be from the COVID-19 vaccination (and you should look out for) include:

- Cough, shortness of breath, runny nose, sore throat, or loss of taste or smell. These are not the typical symptoms from a COVID-19 vaccination. They could be symptoms of COVID-19 or another infection. Talk to your facility leadership about staying home from work.