

COVID-19 vaccine

HERE'S WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

As COVID-19 vaccines continue to be developed and approved, it's important to understand the facts. This will help you answer your employees' questions and direct them to the best places to find reliable information. It will also help as you prepare to return-to-work or make decisions on how to continue keeping your employees safe in the workplace.

Timeline

- Jan. 7, 2020**
World Health Organization identifies outbreak as a new coronavirus.
- March 26, 2020**
First experimental coronavirus vaccine trials begin in U.S.
- April 9, 2020**
Second coronavirus vaccine trial begins in the U.S.
- May 5, 2020**
Researchers at Pfizer and New York University say they are working on a never-before-tried coronavirus vaccine.
- May 18, 2020**
A COVID-19 vaccine developed by Moderna shows it can prompt an immune response in the human body.
- Nov. 16, 2020**
Moderna announces its COVID-19 vaccine candidate.
- Nov. 18, 2020**
Pfizer announces its leading coronavirus vaccine candidate will be submitted for FDA approval.
- Dec. 11, 2020**
The FDA authorizes Pfizer's COVID vaccine for emergency use.
- Dec. 14, 2020**
The vaccine rollout begins across the United States.
- Dec. 18, 2020**
FDA authorizes Moderna vaccine.
- Dec. 20, 2020**
The Moderna vaccine begins distribution.
- Feb. 4, 2021**
Johnson & Johnson submits their vaccine candidate for emergency use authorization

More information

Get the latest information from these trusted sources:

- [Centers for Disease Control](#)
- [Iowa Department of Public Health](#)
- [South Dakota Department of Health](#)



More from Wellmark

As the pandemic continues and more information about the vaccine is released, check back with Wellmark for information regarding COVID-19 and your organization's health plan. You can also view our [Frequently Asked Questions](#) page at [Wellmark.com/coronavirus](#) for more information.

Fact sheet sources:
CVS Health
Iowa Department of Public Health
South Dakota Department of Public Health
NBC News

The basics

While multiple pharmaceutical companies are working on vaccines, below are the first to be approved for emergency use*:



Pfizer

2 doses, 21 days apart
95% effective against COVID-19



Moderna

2 doses, 28 days apart
94.1% effective against COVID-19

All vaccines authorized or nearing authorization appear to have high efficacy in preventing hospitalizations and deaths from COVID-19.



* Approved as of Jan. 26, 2021, for emergency use by the Federal Drug Administration. <https://www.fda.gov/emergency-preparedness-and-response/coronavirus-disease-2019-covid-19/covid-19-vaccines>

Rollout phases

Based on industry, living situations, age, or underlying health issues, your employees may be eligible to receive their vaccine at varying times. With guidance from the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP), each state has staged distribution of the vaccine and prioritized groups of individuals, such as health care workers or adults over the age of 65. For up-to-date information on the status and distribution phases of the COVID-19 vaccine in Iowa and South Dakota, click at right.

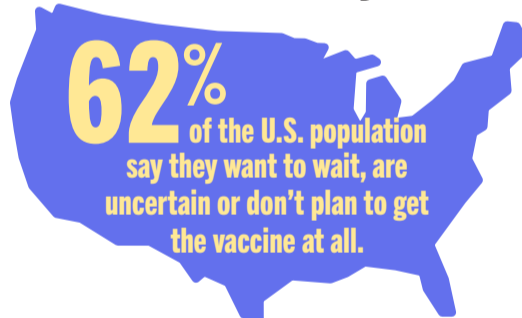


Cost of the vaccination

VACCINE	FULLY INSURED	SELF-FUNDED
	\$0 Cost covered by the government	\$0 Cost covered by the government
	\$0	\$17.00* 1st dose \$29.00* 2nd dose <small>*Allowed billable amount</small>

If the vaccine is administered in a physician's office, the cost will fall under medical. If administered in a pharmacy, it will fall under your pharmacy plan.

Vaccine advocacy



Just like flu shots, employers should be actively involved in educating and encouraging their employees to get their COVID-19 vaccine.

Share this story from [BlueSM](#) or provide this [Fact Sheet](#) to help answer their questions.

Post-vaccine workplace

Studies are underway to determine if a vaccinated person can spread the virus. Even after getting vaccinated, your employees should continue mask wearing, hand washing, and social distancing.



Is it safe?

YES. The COVID-19 vaccine — and all vaccines for that matter — go through numerous clinical trials to evaluate their safety and effectiveness. The Food and Drug Administration has reviewed the clinical trial data and has approved the Pfizer and Moderna vaccines for emergency use.

Can you get COVID-19 from the vaccine?

NO. All the vaccines that have currently completed or are nearing completion of clinical trials do not contain live strains of coronavirus and can't cause you to develop COVID-19. After the vaccination, recipients might experience mild side effects, such as fatigue, fever, aches and pains, or pain at the injection site — much like a flu vaccination.

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