The COVID-19 vaccines are effective tools to protect you from the virus and help end this pandemic.

After months of ensuring those at greater risk are protected, all residents age 16 and up are eligible to get vaccinated, beginning April 12. Those in a priority group — including frontline essential workers, seniors and those with high-risk conditions or disabilities — will continue to be prioritized and eligible to get the vaccine.

Benefits

The COVID-19 vaccines are a critical part of ending this pandemic. Growing availability of vaccines means we can help protect ourselves, slow the spread of the virus and save as many lives as possible.

Who is eligible?

While the number of doses is limited, vaccines will be prioritized for people with the greatest risk. And as more vaccine becomes available, more people will become eligible. To find out if you qualify for a vaccine before it becomes widely available to all residents 16 and older, visit **coronavirus.illinois.gov** or call our toll free hotline at **833-621-1284**.

How to make an appointment

Vaccines are currently available by appointment only at more than 900 locations across the state. Find a provider and more information at **coronavirus.illinois.gov**. To make an appointment by phone, call our toll free hotline at **833-621-1284**.

Effective protection is here

Prevention
The most important benefit of vaccination is to help prevent you from getting sick with COVID-19.

Protection
Vaccines go through rigorous testing to prove their protection, and all three authorized vaccines were 100% effective at preventing death and hospitalization from COVID-19.

End the pandemic
Vaccines are how we end this pandemic. Once enough of us have been vaccinated and build immunity, we can get back to our pre-COVID routines.

Are all of the vaccines effective?

In order to be authorized, vaccines must be proven to be effective. Public health experts certify each vaccine's protection before it's authorized for use.

How much will the vaccine cost?

Vaccines are available to all eligible Illinoisans at no cost. Your insurance or our state government may be billed a vaccine administration fee, but there are NO out of pocket costs.

Is the vaccine safe for everyone?

All approved vaccines have gone through clinical trials with tens of thousands of participants of diverse backgrounds. The results of the trials are independently reviewed before being recommended.

Are there side effects of this vaccine?

Some people may experience side effects, which is normal. Side effects are part of the immune response that shows your body has recognized the vaccine and is building protection, which means the vaccine is working.

If I have already had COVID-19 and recovered, do I still need to get vaccinated?

Yes, people who have already had COVID-19 should plan to get the vaccine. It's currently unclear if antibodies from your infection will naturally protect you from another COVID-19 infection in the future.

Do I need to wear a mask and avoid close contact with others if I have received two doses of the vaccine?

Yes. Vaccines work with your immune system so your body will be ready to fight if you are exposed to the virus. However, to protect those around you, you should still follow safety precautions - wear a mask, practice social distancing, and wash your hands.

What to expect

Before vaccination

1. Make sure you're eligible and find a provider at **coronavirus.illinois.gov**

When you get vaccinated

1. After you check in, you'll get your shot and stay on-site for observation for 15 minutes after receiving the vaccine.

2. You'll get a vaccination card or printout with information about which COVID-19 vaccine you received, the date you received it, and where you received it. You'll also receive a fact sheet that tells you more about the specific COVID-19 vaccine you were given.

After vaccination

1. Two COVID-19 vaccines authorized in the U.S. require two shots to be fully vaccinated. If a second dose is required, be sure to make an appointment and return for your second shot.

2. Even after you're fully vaccinated, keep masking up to protect those closest to you.

Remember the three Ws

Wear a mask
A mask or cloth face covering helps stop the spread of COVID-19. Wear one whenever you're in a public setting and remember, it only works when you wear it.

Watch your distance
Practice social distancing by avoiding gatherings with those outside your household and staying at least six feet away from others, in both indoor and outdoor spaces.

Wash Your Hands
Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.

Tell us why you got vaccinated #VaxUpIL #allinillinois