What to Expect After COVID-19 Vaccination

What side effects might I expect after receiving a COVID-19 vaccine?
Side effects that have been reported following COVID-19 vaccination include:

- Injection site pain, swelling, or redness
- Tiredness
- Muscle or joint pain
- Fever or chills
- Headache
- Nausea or vomiting
- Generally feeling unwell
- Swollen lymph nodes

Side effects are more commonly reported after the 2nd dose of the vaccine and are more common in those under 55 years of age.

These side effects are usually mild to moderate, but in rare cases can be more severe.

Studies of the vaccines are ongoing, so other side effects are possible.

What serious adverse events should I be aware of?
There is a small chance that the vaccine could cause a severe allergic reaction, usually occurring within a few minutes to an hour after vaccine administration. Signs could include difficulty breathing, swelling of your face or throat a fast heartbeat, a rash, and dizziness or weakness.

Studies of the vaccines are still ongoing, so other serious and unexpected side effects may occur.

What should I do if experience an adverse reaction?
If you experience a severe allergic reaction (difficulty breathing, swelling of your face or throat, a fast heartbeat, dizziness, or weakness), call 911 or go to the nearest hospital.
If you have other side effects that bother you or do not go away, call your healthcare provider.

Please note: If you have insurance, your insurance will be billed for the vaccine and you will receive an Explanation of Benefits (EOB). For Medicare Advantage patients, traditional Medicare will be billed.
Additional Resources:

V-safe is a smartphone-based tool that uses text messaging and web surveys to provide personalized health check-ins after you receive a COVID-19 vaccination. Through V-safe, you can quickly tell CDC if you have any side effects after getting the COVID-19 vaccine. Depending on your answers, someone from CDC may call to check on you and get more information. And V-safe will remind you to get your second COVID-19 vaccine dose if you need one.

Your participation in CDC’s V-safe makes a difference — it helps keep COVID-19 vaccines safe.


Aim your mobile phone camera at this code to open the V-Safe registration page.