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## [Benefits of Getting a COVID-19 Vaccine](#)

### **COVID-19 vaccines protect your health**

COVID 19-vaccines are effective at protecting people from getting seriously ill, being hospitalized, and dying. Vaccination remains the safest strategy for avoiding hospitalizations, long-term health outcomes, and death.

- Prevents serious illness: [COVID-19 vaccines](#) available in the United States are safe and effective at protecting people from getting seriously ill, being hospitalized, and dying.
- A safer way to build protection: Getting a COVID-19 vaccine is a safer, more reliable way to build protection than getting sick with COVID-19.
- Offers added protection: COVID-19 vaccines can offer added protection to people who had COVID-19, including protection against being hospitalized from a new infection.

How to be best protected: As with vaccines for other diseases, people are best protected when they stay up to date.

### **What you can do now to prevent severe illness, hospitalization, and death**

Everyone ages 6 months and older should get a 2024–2025 COVID-19 vaccine. CDC recommends everyone ages 5 years and older [get 1 updated 2024–2025 COVID-19 vaccine](#). Children ages 6 months–4 years may need more than 1 dose of updated COVID-19 to stay up to date.

#### **Severe illness**

COVID-19 vaccines are highly effective in preventing the most severe outcomes from a COVID-19 infection.

[Myocarditis](#) is a condition where the heart becomes inflamed in response to an infection or some other trigger. Myocarditis after COVID-19 vaccination is rare. This study shows that [patients with COVID-19 had nearly 16 times the risk for myocarditis compared with patients who did not have COVID-19.](#)

### **Hospitalization**

COVID-19 vaccines can help prevent you from becoming hospitalized if you do get infected with COVID-19.

### **Death**

COVID-19 vaccines can help prevent you from dying if you do get infected with COVID-19.

### **COVID-19 vaccination is a safer, more reliable way to build protection**

Getting a COVID-19 vaccine is a safer, more reliable way to build protection than getting sick with COVID-19. COVID-19 vaccination helps protect people by creating an immune response without the potentially severe illness or [post-COVID conditions](#) that can be associated with COVID-19 infection.

### **Getting Sick**

- Getting sick with COVID-19 can cause severe illness or death, even in children, but it is not possible to determine who will experience mild or severe illness from COVID-19 infection.
- People may have long-term health issues after having COVID-19. Even people who do not have symptoms when they are first infected with COVID-19 can experience long-term health problems, also known as long COVID or post-COVID conditions.
- Complications can appear after mild or severe COVID-19, or after [multisystem inflammatory syndrome in children \(MIS-C\)](#).

### **Protection from COVID-19**

**While people can get some protection from having COVID-19, the level and length of that protection varies, especially as COVID-19 variants continue**

## **to emerge.**

- Immunity (protection) from infection can vary depending on how mild or severe someone's illness was and their age.
- Immunity from infection decreases over time.

Importantly, there is no antibody test available that can reliably determine if a person is protected from further infection.

## **After Vaccination**

After vaccination, continue to follow all current respiratory virus [prevention measures](#) recommended by CDC. Learn more about protecting your family from COVID-19.

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