

# The updated COVID-19 vaccine: What you need to know



## → Why do we need an updated COVID-19 vaccine?

As the COVID-19 virus has spread from person to person over time, it has changed. Most people are getting sick from newer types (or variants) of the virus. The vaccine has been updated to help protect against these new variants.

## → Has the COVID-19 vaccine been tested?



Yes! COVID-19 vaccines have been tested in many clinical trials with 10,000s of people.

Clinical trials are research studies that make sure vaccines and medicines are safe and work to treat or prevent disease.

## → How do we know the COVID-19 vaccine is safe?

- COVID-19 vaccines were made with science that has been around for more than 50 years
- COVID-19 vaccines meet the Food and Drug Administration's (FDA's) high standards for safety and effectiveness
- Millions of people in the United States, and billions of people around the world, have safely gotten COVID-19 vaccines
- Doctors, scientists, and other health experts keep track of the safety of COVID-19 vaccines with a nation-wide vaccine safety monitoring system

## → Why should I get vaccinated if I might get COVID-19 anyway?

People who are up to date with their COVID-19 vaccinations can still get COVID-19. When this happens, it's called a breakthrough case.

However, a breakthrough case of COVID-19 is far less likely to cause serious illness, hospitalization, or death than a case of COVID-19 in an unvaccinated person.



## → Do I have to get the COVID-19 vaccine?

No, you do not have to get the COVID-19 vaccine. Getting the vaccine is your choice.

However, the COVID-19 vaccine is safe and offers strong protection against getting seriously ill, being hospitalized, and dying from the COVID-19 virus.



## → Can my employer make me get the COVID-19 vaccine?

An employer may decide that their workers have to be vaccinated. Ask your employer if they have any vaccine requirements or rules that apply to you.



### Besides the vaccine, how else can I protect myself from COVID-19?



Wear a mask or a respirator, especially if you are in a crowded indoor space



Wash your hands frequently or use hand sanitizer that is at least 60% alcohol



Disinfect frequently touched surfaces like doorknobs and cellphones




Get fresh air indoors by opening windows. You can also move indoor activities outdoors.



Avoid contact with people who have COVID-19 symptoms

Visit our website to find out if you can get a COVID-19 vaccine at no cost through CDC's Bridge Access Program.

 [bit.ly/3QMEI8B](https://bit.ly/3QMEI8B)

