



What to Know about 2026–27 COVID-19 Vaccines



What is COVID-19?

COVID-19 is an infectious disease caused by a virus. It infects the lungs and breathing passages, such as the nose, mouth, and throat. COVID-19 can cause mild to severe respiratory illness, including dry cough, shortness of breath, fatigue, fever, diarrhea, head and body aches, and loss of taste and/or smell.

How can I protect myself and my loved ones from the COVID-19?

New variants of the virus that cause COVID-19 emerge each year, and scientists work to develop a vaccine that offers the best possible protection against these new strains. The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has approved four updated 2026-27 COVID-19 vaccines for use against circulating strains of the virus. Getting the updated 2026-27 COVID-19 vaccine remains the best way to prevent severe COVID-19 symptoms, hospitalization, and death.

Where can I get the COVID-19 vaccine?

The COVID-19 vaccine is available at pharmacies, health clinics, and doctors' offices. People can typically book a vaccine appointment in advance, or some clinics and pharmacies allow walk-ins without an appointment.

Nearly all public and private insurance plans fully cover the COVID-19 vaccine, making it free as part of preventative care. For adults who do not have insurance, free or low-cost COVID-19 vaccine options may be available. [America's Health Insurance Plans \(AHIP\) have pledged to cover the costs of vaccines recommended by the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices \(ACIP\)](#) through the end of 2027. Talk to a local pharmacist or a healthcare professional, or check with a local health department about free or low-cost options.

2026-27 Recommendations to Protect Against COVID-19

Adults	The <u>American Academy of Family Physicians (AAFP)</u> continues to recommend COVID-19 vaccination as the best way to protect against severe illness. Medical societies recommend that everyone ages 6 months and older get the annual updated COVID-19 vaccine. <u>Adults ages 65 years and older</u> should receive a second dose of the COVID-19 vaccine 6 months after the initial dose to help maintain protection.
Children	<u>All infants and children</u> ages 6 months and older are eligible to receive a COVID-19 vaccine. The <u>American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP)</u> recommends the vaccine for all children ages 6 to 23 months, and for all children ages 2 to 18 years who are at increased risk for severe illness. Children ages 2 to 18 years who are not at increased risk for severe illness can also receive the COVID-19 vaccine in consultation with a healthcare professional.
Pregnant People	The <u>American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ACOG)</u> recommends that all pregnant people get the COVID-19 vaccine. It is safe to receive the COVID-19 vaccine at any point during your pregnancy.
Immunocompromised	The <u>Infectious Diseases Society of America (IDSA)</u> recommends that everyone ages 6 months and older with compromised immune systems receive a COVID-19 vaccine. An additional dose may provide longer protection for some people. Discuss options with your healthcare professional, based on individual risk and local COVID-19 activity.

SOURCES: 2026-27 respiratory virus immunization content is informed by recommendations from the American Academy of Family Physicians (AAFP), American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP), American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ACOG), and the Infectious Diseases Society of America (IDSA).