

**1. How many doses of the COVID-19 vaccine will I need?**

Initial supply of COVID-19 vaccines will require two doses – 21 days -28 days apart.

**2. Is the vaccine safe?**

We take the health and safety of our patients and community seriously and we are committed to providing education to promote informed decisions. The vaccine has been approved by public health agencies and is safe for use in most adults. It has been proven to be 95 percent effective in preventing symptomatic COVID-19 when administered in two doses. For comparison, annual flu vaccination is between 40-60 percent effective in preventing influenza.

As with all pharmaceuticals, a patient's response to a vaccine is unique to their individual body and medical history. We encourage all patients to discuss the vaccine with their physician before administration.

**3. Why should I receive the vaccine?**

The vaccine is the most effective tool for eradicating this virus and ending this global pandemic. We encourage all members of our community to consider a vaccine.

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**4. Do I have to receive the vaccine?**

We understand that the decision to receive a vaccine is an emotional issue, and we believe that decision is a personal one that should be made in consultation with a physician. However, the vaccine is the most effective tool for eradicating this virus and ending this global pandemic.

We encourage all members of our community, to consider a vaccine.

**5. What if I have a recent laboratory proven case of COVID-19, do I still need to get the COVID-19 vaccine?**

People who've had a laboratory proven case of COVID-19 within the past 90 days, not to receive the vaccine at this time.

**6. What if I believe I had COVID-19 recently, should I get the COVID-19 vaccine?**

If you believe you've had COVID-19 but were not tested for the virus, you are still encouraged to get the vaccine. There is no evidence that receiving the COVID-19 vaccine will have any adverse effects for individuals who have or recently had COVID-19.

**7. What side effects could result from the vaccine?**

Most people will experience no or minimal side effects following administration of the vaccine. Some patients, however, have reported experiencing side effects that include fever, aches, fatigue and other symptoms. While some of these symptoms may feel severe, they are temporary and typically resolve within a few days.

**8. Is wearing a mask required when receiving the COVID-19 vaccine?**

Yes, wearing a mask that covers the nose and mouth is required when receiving a COVID-19 vaccine.

**9. Is there a cost for the COVID-19 vaccine?**

Per the New York State Department of Health, providers may not bill for the cost of the vaccine but can bill the individual's health insurance for an administration fee. Providers vaccinating individuals with no health insurance or insurance that does not cover the administration fee can request reimbursement for the administration of the COVID-19 through the [Provider Relief Fund](#).

**10. Can I get COVID-19 from the vaccine?**

No, it is a myth that you'll get COVID-19 from the COVID-19 vaccine. You will not get COVID-19 from the vaccine because the vaccine does not use the live virus.

It typically takes a few weeks for the body to build immunity after vaccination. It is possible to become infected with the virus that causes COVID-19 just before or just after vaccination and get sick—this is because the vaccine has not had enough time to provide protection.

**11. I'm pregnant. Should I receive the vaccine?**

Because of the incomplete evidence regarding pregnant and lactating women, we ask the patient to consider having a discussion with her healthcare provider for counseling on the risks and benefits of COVID-19 vaccine.

**12. Are vaccines available for children?**

COVID-19 (SARS-CoV-2) vaccine trials have only just begun in children and there is limited information available. Children and young people have a very low risk of COVID-19, severe disease or death due to SARS-CoV-2 compared to adults and so COVID-19 vaccines are not routinely recommended for children and young people under 16 years of age.

**13. Once I get vaccinated, will I test positive on a COVID-19 viral test?**

The COVID-19 vaccine will not cause you to test positive on viral tests. If your body develops an immune response, which is the goal of vaccination, there is a possibility you may test positive on some antibody tests.

**14. Who should get the COVID-19 vaccine first?**

Frontline health care workers at acute care sites will be prioritized as first vaccine recipients.

**15. Will there be enough vaccines for everyone?**

At first, there will be a limited supply of the COVID-19 vaccine which means that not everyone will be able to be vaccinated right away. This supply will increase in 2021.

That is why the federal government began investing in select vaccine manufacturers to help increase their ability to quickly make and distribute a large amount of the COVID-19 vaccine. This will allow the United States to start with as much vaccine as possible and continually increase the supply in the weeks and months to follow.

**16. Why would a vaccine be needed if we can do other things, like social distance and wear masks, to prevent the virus from spreading?**

Vaccines work with an individual's immune system to prepare your body to fight the virus if exposed. Social distancing and wearing a mask helps reduce your chance of being exposed to the virus and spreading it to others.

**17. Do I need to wear a mask and avoid close contact with others if I have received the COVID-19 vaccine?**

Yes. Even after getting the vaccine, it is still important to continue using all the tools available to help stop the spread of the virus, such as wearing a mask, social distancing, and cleaning your hands because it will take several months for everyone to have access to the vaccine.

**18. Will I need to get the COVID-19 vaccine every year?**

According to the latest research, it is unknown if individuals will need to get the COVID-19 vaccine every year.

**19. How many people need to get vaccinated to make things safe again?**

Experts do not know what percentage of people would need to get vaccinated to achieve herd immunity to COVID-19. Herd immunity is a term used to describe when enough people have protection—either from previous infection or vaccination—that it is unlikely a virus or bacteria can spread and cause disease. As a result, everyone within the community is protected even if some people don't have any protection themselves. The percentage of people who need to have protection in order to achieve herd immunity varies by disease – usually, it is at least 70 percent of the population or more.

**20. Why the vaccine require a second shot?**

Yes, currently authorized vaccines, and most vaccines under development, require two doses of vaccine. The first shot helps the immune system recognize the virus, and the second shot strengthens the immune response. You need both to get the best protection.

**21. When did the vaccine trials start?**

Phase 1 clinical trials began in mid-March.

**22. When will the vaccine be available in Monroe County?**

New York State will receive the first delivery of doses of the COVID-19 vaccine developed by Pfizer and will start vaccinating the first group of high-risk health care workers, nursing home residents and staff this week. The first healthcare worker in the state received a vaccine on 12/14.

**23. When the vaccines are distributed how long can the product stay out of those special refrigerators?**

After storage for up to 30 days in the Pfizer thermal shipper, the vials can be stored in 2-8 ° conditions for an additional five days. Once thawed and stored under those conditions, the vials cannot be re-frozen or stores under frozen conditions.

**24. What are the alternatives to a vaccine to treat COVID19?**

The vaccine will help protect you from getting COVID-19. By getting vaccinated, you can also help protect people around you. It's important for everyone to continue using all the tools available to help stop this pandemic as we learn more about how COVID-19 vaccines work in real-world conditions. Cover your mouth and nose with a mask when around others, stay at least 6 feet away from others, avoid crowds, and wash your hands often.

**25. Is it recommend that asymptomatic individuals get the vaccine?**

Yes, people with asymptomatic infection can unknowingly spread the virus to others.

**26. Did clinical trials include both placebo and actual vaccine? What is the methodology going forward?**

In Phase 3 studies, hundreds or thousands of volunteers participate. Vaccinated people are compared with people who have received a placebo or another vaccine so researchers can learn more about the test vaccine's safety and effectiveness and identify common side effects. Those who received placebo will also need to get the vaccine.

**27. Should people with chronic conditions receive the COVID-19 vaccine?**

It is recommended that you speak with your primary care provider.

**28. What and who is monitoring the trials? Will monitoring continue after emergency use order is implemented?**

The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) evaluates clinical trials data, along with information from the manufacturer, to assess the safety and effectiveness of a vaccine. FDA then decides whether to approve a vaccine or authorize it for emergency use in the United States. After a vaccine is either approved or authorized for emergency use and public use by FDA, the CDC will further assess their effectiveness.

The safety of vaccines is monitored all the time with multiple approaches. As people get vaccinated, CDC, FDA, and other federal partners will use robust systems and data sources to conduct ongoing safety monitoring.

- A new smartphone-based, after vaccination health checker for people who receive COVID-19 vaccines. V-SAFE will use text messaging and web surveys from CDC to check in with vaccine recipients for health problems following COVID-19 vaccination. The system also will provide telephone follow up to anyone who reports medically significant (important) adverse events.
- An acute care and long-term care facility monitoring system with reporting to the Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System or VAERS.
- A system of administrative and claims-based data for surveillance and research.

It is important to note that self-reporting is very important for post safety surveillance. Individuals can submit a report to the VAERS system.