

Vaccines have enabled us to eliminate or greatly reduce the impact of illnesses like smallpox, polio, measles, and more.

Vaccines are key to fighting COVID-19 illnesses, hospitalizations, and deaths.

COVID-19 can have serious, life-threatening complications, and there is no way to know how the virus will affect you. If you get sick, you could also spread the virus to friends, family, and others around you, harming their health. Getting vaccinated is one of the best ways to protect yourself and others from COVID-19.

The COVID-19 vaccine will help protect you from the virus by **creating an antibody response**. Several COVID-19 vaccines are already in use and more are in development. The vaccines will teach our immune systems to recognize and fight the virus. None of the COVID-19 vaccines in use or under development in the U.S. use the live COVID-19 virus so **you cannot contract COVID-19 from being vaccinated**.

COVID-19 vaccines meet the same safety standards as all other vaccines. **They have been tested extensively in the laboratory and with humans to ensure their safety**. Tens of thousands of Americans participated in clinical trials to test how the vaccines protect people of different ages, races, and ethnicities, as well as people with different medical conditions.

**Most people do not have serious problems after being vaccinated**. As of January 20, over 12 million Americans (including many healthcare workers) have already received a COVID-19 vaccine. Some have reported a headache or fever. **These side effects are a sign their immune systems are doing what they are supposed to do: working and building up protection**. These side effects usually go away on their own within a few days.

# VACCINE ACCESS

PLEASE DO NOT CALL YOUR HEALTHCARE PROVIDER OR PUBLIC HEALTH ABOUT GETTING VACCINATED AT THIS TIME.



Vaccinations will first be given to priority groups decided by the CDC and Iowa Department of Public Health. Examples include: healthcare workers, nursing home residents, first responders, essential workers, adults with high-risk medical conditions, and older adults.

Please get vaccinated when supplies increase and you are eligible. Vaccinations will be free and are expected to be available to all adults\* at healthcare providers, pharmacies, and vaccination clinics.

*\*Vaccines for children are not yet available.*

>>VACCINES ARE NOT YET AVAILABLE FOR THE GENERAL PUBLIC<<

Updates on vaccine availability will be widely shared through local media, at [www.dubuquecounty.org/COVID19](http://www.dubuquecounty.org/COVID19) or by calling 563.556.6200.

Sign up to receive email and/or text updates at [www.cityofdubuque.org/getCOVIDupdates](http://www.cityofdubuque.org/getCOVIDupdates)

This information is provided to you by the  
**DUBUQUE COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH  
INCIDENT MANAGEMENT TEAM**



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**The combination of getting vaccinated and following the CDC's recommendations are our best shot at ending this pandemic.**

**Please continue to help stop the spread by:**

- **wearing a facemask**
- **staying at least six feet away from others**
- **washing your hands often**
- **staying home if you are sick**
- **getting tested if you have symptoms or were exposed to someone with COVID**

**Have you recovered from COVID-19?**

There is a need for convalescent plasma to treat patients battling COVID-19.

**Local Options for Plasma Donations**

Mississippi Valley Regional Blood Center:

Complete a self-referral form at [bloodcenter.org/cp](http://bloodcenter.org/cp)

to see if you are eligible or call 1-833-610-1025

American Red Cross:

Call 1-800-733-2767 or visit [RedCrossBlood.org](http://RedCrossBlood.org)

**What Local Experts Want You to Know**

**I've recovered from COVID. Do I need to get vaccinated?**

Yes, even if you have had COVID and recovered, you should still get vaccinated. About 10% of people who were infected with COVID develop a weak antibody response that wears off in approximately 90 days and they could be reinfected. We can't predict who will fall into this spectrum of weak antibody responses, but the milder your previous COVID infection, the more likely you developed a weaker antibody response. Vaccines would protect you and give you the optimal antibody response.

**Dr. Bobby Koneru, Dubuque County Board of Health Member**

**Where will I be able to get vaccinated?**

It will depend. If you are in a designated priority group of essential workers, you may get vaccinated at your employer. If you are in a priority group because of your age or a medical condition, you may get vaccinated at your healthcare provider's office or a clinic. When vaccine supplies increase and the general public becomes eligible for vaccinations, we expect vaccinations to be provided at healthcare providers, pharmacies, and vaccination clinics. Some large employers may choose to provide opportunities at work, as they do for influenza vaccinations.

**Dubuque County Public Health Incident Management Team**

**How safe is the vaccine and what about side effects?**

The safety of the COVID-19 vaccine has been closely monitored by the CDC, FDA, and other agencies. The possibility of having an allergic reaction is rare and extremely small. A mild immune reaction is a common side effect, however. We intend for this to happen when you receive a vaccination, as your immune system forms a response to build protection.

**Dr. Hendrik Schultz, Dubuque County Board of Health Member**