



ANSWERS TO IMPORTANT QUESTIONS ABOUT THE COVID-19 VACCINE

for VIVA HEALTH and VIVA MEDICARE Members

1. What COVID-19 vaccines are available?

Answer: The Pfizer, Moderna, and Johnson & Johnson vaccines have received emergency use authorization by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), with others expected to follow.

The Pfizer vaccine has been approved for those 5 years old and older, and both the Moderna and Johnson & Johnson vaccines are approved for people 18 and older.

2. Does VIVA HEALTH cover the COVID-19 vaccine?

Answer: For both VIVA MEDICARE and VIVA HEALTH commercial members your vaccination for COVID-19 is covered at no cost to you. Providers will bill VIVA HEALTH.

3. Who is eligible to get the vaccine?

Answer: As of 5/13/2021, anyone 5 and older is eligible for vaccination in Alabama. Only the Pfizer vaccine is approved for children 5-17.

4. Where can I get vaccinated?

Answer: You can get vaccinated anywhere vaccinations that have received emergency use authorization by the FDA are being given. You are not required to use a VIVA HEALTH contracted provider. Currently, the vaccines are available only at select locations, such as the Health Department, and some pharmacies, hospitals or doctors' offices. Go to the Alabama Department of Public Health website to find a vaccine location near you: www.alcovidvaccine.gov

People who work or live in Jefferson County have an additional option to stay informed. County officials have set up a call center to answer questions about the vaccine's availability within Jefferson County. You can call 205-858-2221, Monday-Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

5. How many doses will I need?

Answer: The number of doses you need depends on which vaccine you receive. Please visit www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/different-vaccines.html for the latest information related to vaccines and booster doses.

6. Since there are multiple brands available, which one should I get?

Answer: If you need advice, check with your doctor or pharmacist to see if he/she has a recommendation. *Note: Federal health regulators have noted that in very rare cases, the Johnson & Johnson vaccine has been linked to a risk of blood clots with low platelets, especially in women younger than 50. This same risk has not been noted in the other Covid-19 vaccines.*

7. What else do I need to know?

Answer:

- Even if you have already had the COVID-19 virus, you should get the vaccine for a stronger and longer lasting immunity. The CDC recommends waiting 90 days before getting vaccinated if you were treated for COVID-19 symptoms with monoclonal antibodies or convalescent plasma.
- Not enough testing has been completed to determine if the Pfizer, Moderna, or Johnson & Johnson vaccines are safe and effective for children under the age of 5 (Pfizer vaccine) or 18 (Moderna and Johnson & Johnson vaccine). Parents of children should consult with their children's doctor to see if a COVID-19 vaccine is appropriate for them.
- Women who are pregnant or planning on becoming pregnant can receive the vaccine. While there is limited data available about the safety of COVID-19 vaccines for those who are pregnant, the CDC believes the vaccines are unlikely to pose a risk. The CDC reports that pregnant people are more likely to get severely ill with COVID-19 and recommends that pregnant people consider getting vaccinated and talk with their doctor if they have questions. The CDC further said there is no evidence that any vaccines, including COVID-19 vaccines, cause fertility problems.
- Learn about the importance of vaccines by visiting www.vaccines.gov.
- There have been significant decreases in routine immunizations during the public health emergency. Get caught up on all your recommended vaccines. This includes your flu vaccine if you have not already had it this season, a pneumonia vaccine and other vaccines if needed.
- Continue to follow the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) guidelines. These include washing your hands often, keeping a social distance from others (at least 6 feet apart), and wearing a mask or face covering.
- Some people experience side effects after receiving the vaccine such as a sore arm, fever, body aches and headache. These are like what you may experience with a flu shot and usually subside within a day or two. Go to www.CDC.gov for the latest information on side effects.
- Several government agencies have received complaints of scammers using the public's interest in COVID-19 vaccines to obtain personal information and money through various schemes. [Click here](#) to see how you can identify possible fraudulent activity.

8. Websites with more information:

- www.vivahealth.com
- www.vaccines.gov
- www.cdc.gov
- www.alabamapublichealth.gov/covid19vaccine/mass-clinics.html

This is provided as a guide. It contains the most up-to-date information available to us as of the date at the bottom of this document. Be aware that this is a changing situation and new information comes out frequently. As new information becomes available, we will periodically update this document. For medical advice, contact your health care provider.