



ANSWERS TO IMPORTANT QUESTIONS ABOUT THE COVID-19 VACCINE

for VIVA HEALTH and VIVA MEDICARE Members

1. When will a vaccine for COVID-19 be available?

Answer: The Pfizer and Moderna vaccines have received emergency use authorization by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), with others expected to follow soon. Vaccinations started being given on December 14, 2020.

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

Answer: VIVA MEDICARE Members: Your vaccination for COVID-19 will be covered at no cost to you. Providers should bill Original Medicare and not VIVA MEDICARE. Please show your red, white, and blue Medicare card when you go for your vaccination. If you do not have your Medicare card, you can show your VIVA MEDICARE card, and they will look up your Medicare number.

VIVA HEALTH Commercial Members: Your vaccination for COVID-19 will be covered at no cost to you. Providers will bill VIVA HEALTH.

3. Who will be the first to get the vaccine?

Answer: The Alabama Department of Public Health is coordinating vaccine distribution in Alabama. The state's vaccination efforts have been focused on health care workers and nursing home residents and staff as well as residents over age 75 and those with certain health conditions. **Beginning 2/8/2021**, those age 65 and over and additional groups of front-line workers are eligible to receive a vaccine. **Click here** to see the Alabama COVID-19 Vaccination Allocation Plan developed by the Alabama Department of Public Health. It shows all the population groups and the order those groups will be eligible to receive a vaccine

4. Where can I get vaccinated?

Answer: You can get it 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. At first, the vaccines will be 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.alabamapublichealth.gov/covid19vaccine/mass-clinics.html

People who work or live in Jefferson County have an additional option to stay informed. You can pre-register for the COVID-19 vaccination by using a form online at <https://bit.ly/3qfZtdX>. Once you are eligible for the vaccine, you will be contacted. County officials have also 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: Currently, the COVID-19 vaccines that have received emergency use authorization by the FDA – Pfizer and Moderna – require two doses (two shots) for full effect. You should get the 2nd dose within 3-4 weeks of the 1st dose. The exact number of days between doses will depend on which brand of vaccine you get. It is especially important to get the 2nd dose of the same brand of vaccine within the required timeframe. You will get a card showing the date your next dose is due and the brand of vaccine you received. Be sure to keep that card to show the provider giving you the 2nd dose and put the date on your calendar. Other vaccines in development require only a single dose (one shot) when they are authorized by the FDA.

6. If there is more than one brand of vaccine 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.

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 or Moderna vaccines are safe and effective for children under the age of 16 (Pfizer vaccine) or 18 (Moderna vaccine) and pregnant women. Children and pregnant women should consult with their doctor to see if a COVID-19 vaccine is appropriate for them.
- 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.

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