

# Frequently Asked Questions



Shasta County  
Health & Human  
Services Agency

Please visit [ShastaReady.org](https://ShastaReady.org) for the most updated information and more FAQs.

## *What are the side effects of the first and second dose?*

You might have fatigue, headache, body aches, soreness at the site of injection and even some fever. These are normal immune responses to vaccines and are your body's natural response in building immunity. The second dose might have stronger side effects than the first.

You can register with V-Safe ([tinyurl.com/shastavsafe](https://tinyurl.com/shastavsafe)), a smartphone based tool that uses texts and web surveys to provide personalized health check-ins after receiving a COVID-19 vaccination. Read the V-safe flyer at [tinyurl.com/vsafeflyer](https://tinyurl.com/vsafeflyer) for more information. Aim your smartphone camera at the QR Code for easy access.



## *When can I get the second dose?*

You can get the second dose of the Pfizer vaccine after 21 days and the second dose of Moderna after 28 days. However, second doses may be administered up to 6 weeks (42 days) after the first dose. You can enroll in VaxText<sup>SM</sup> for second dose reminders by visiting [tinyurl.com/VaxText](https://tinyurl.com/VaxText).

## *Where do I get the second dose?*

In the coming weeks, Shasta County anticipates more options—clinics, pharmacies and healthcare providers—to receive first and second doses. Any updated vaccine information will be shared at [ShastaReady.org](https://ShastaReady.org). Click on the *Vaccination* and *Current News* links for updates.

### *Will the vaccine give me COVID-19?*

Neither version of the vaccine contains a live virus, so they do not cause COVID-19. Instead, the vaccine boosts your immune system, preparing it to take on COVID-19 and keep you safe.

### *When can I stop wearing a mask?*

Not yet. Experts are still learning about COVID-19 vaccine protection, including if vaccinated people can still transmit the virus to those without the vaccine.

### *When is the vaccine effective?*

Immunity begins about 2 weeks after the first dose, but maximum immunity may not be achieved for 2 to 4 weeks after the second dose. It may take 6 to 8 weeks to get the full benefits of the vaccine. Therefore, it is possible that a person could be infected by COVID-19 just before or just after vaccination and then get sick because the vaccine did not have enough time to provide full protection.

### *Can I still carry or transmit the virus after I'm vaccinated?*

Yes. Vaccines protect you from getting sick from COVID-19, but you may still be able to transmit the virus. Because we are still learning about immunity to this virus, it is important to continue to wear a mask and socially distance even after getting vaccinated, until more people receive vaccines.

### *Will this vaccine work on new variants of COVID-19?*

Scientists are still watching the variants, but so far the variants are small and the vaccines should work.

### *Can the vaccine make you sterile?*

There is no evidence that the vaccine causes mutations or cellular defects associated with infertility.