Why Get a COVID-19 Vaccine and Booster?

Information about COVID-19 Vaccines and Boosters for Long-Term Care Residents and Their Family Members

Get a Free Vaccine or Booster Shot

COVID-19 vaccination and booster shots are recommended for everyone who is eligible. People 18 and older are eligible for any vaccine or booster shot available in the U.S. The Pfizer vaccine is authorized for people 5 years and older, and the Pfizer booster shot is authorized for people 12 years and older.

Booster Shots Best Protect You

COVID-19 vaccines are safe and effective in preventing severe disease. However, recent data suggest their effectiveness decreases over time, especially in people 65 years and older.

Studies show that a booster dose gives you the best protection against severe disease. Getting a booster shot also makes it less likely you will get COVID-19, including the Omicron variant.

Source: cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/booster-shot.html

What We Know About Vaccines, Booster Shots and COVID-19 Variants

- COVID-19 vaccines and booster shots are safe and effective against severe disease and death from COVID-19, including variants of COVID-19.
- COVID-19 vaccines and booster shots do not give you COVID-19 disease.
- You may have side effects after vaccination and booster shots. These are normal and should go away in a few days.
- COVID-19 infections are not common in people who are fully vaccinated and boosted, even infections from COVID-19 variants.
- Vaccinated and boosted people who get COVID-19 have less severe symptoms.
- Fully vaccinated and boosted people can spread the virus to others, but vaccinated and boosted people appear to be contagious for a shorter length of time than people who are unvaccinated.
- Even when fully vaccinated and boosted, people with weakened immune systems are at higher risk of getting COVID-19 and having more severe symptoms.

Source: cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/variants/variant.html

How to Get a Vaccine or Booster Shot

COVID-19 vaccines, including booster shots, are always free. You do not need health insurance to get a vaccine or booster shot. Getting a vaccine is easy. You can ask your facility, look online, check with your pharmacy, call, or text to find a location close to you.

Work with Your Facility to Schedule a Vaccination or Booster Shot

Your nursing facility or assisted living facility must help you get a vaccine or a booster shot if you want one. Talk to your facility about getting a vaccine or booster shot.

Find a Vaccine Location Online

Visit vaccines.gov to find vaccines near you.

For help in Spanish, visit https://wa.link/z5kihm to find vaccine locations near you, learn how to get free rides and child care for your vaccine appointment, and learn about the COVID-19 vaccine.

Register online at GetTheVaccine.dshs.texas.gov to get an email or text about when and where to get the vaccine.

Call for Vaccine Information

Call the national vaccine finder hotline toll free at 800-232-0233 (TTY 1-888-720-7489).

People who are homebound and groups of five or more Texans can call 844-90-TEXAS (844-908-3927) to schedule a vaccination visit from the State Mobile Vaccination Program.

Concerns About Getting Vaccinated?

It's OK to have concerns. If you have questions, talk to your doctor. You can also get credible and accurate COVID-19 vaccine information at cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/facts.html.

About the Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program

Long-term care ombudsmen are advocates for residents' rights. Ombudsmen help protect the quality of life and quality of care of anyone who lives in a nursing facility or an assisted living facility. Call toll free at 800-252-2412 or email ltc.ombudsman@hhs.texas.gov to contact an ombudsman.