

COVID-19 Vaccine: About Your Third Dose

Congratulations on receiving your third COVID vaccine!

Why am I getting a third dose?

While we continue to learn more about the COVID vaccine, the evidence shows that the vaccine can become less effective over time. To protect yourself against severe disease, hospitalization and death, some people will need a third dose.

In particular, people with weakened immune systems (immunosuppressed) should get a third dose. This is because these people can have a better immune response with a third dose.

Will I need another shot after this?

We do not know yet. It is possible that we will need another booster of the COVID vaccine again in the future.

Side effects:

Some people have side effects after their third COVID vaccine, but there is no evidence that this is more severe than after the first two doses. It is common for people to start feeling sick about 12 hours after this shot. Please stay home if you are not feeling well. Side effects usually go away in 1-2 days.

There is no need to take medicines like acetaminophen (Tylenol) or ibuprofen (Advil) unless you develop side effects; if you do develop side effects, it is OK to take these medicines. If you work, you may want to take off the day after your third dose. We also recommend that you drink plenty of water.

Common side effects:

- Pain, redness, or swelling on the arm where you got the shot, up to a week afterwards.
- Fever, chills, body aches, headache, nausea and/or fatigue.

If you develop side effects:

- If you have arm pain, you can use ice or a cold compress.
- If you are having a fever, body aches or headache, you can take acetaminophen (Tylenol) or ibuprofen (Advil) unless you have been told by a healthcare provider that you should not take these medicines.

When to call us or seek medical care:

Please call your doctor or health care provider if:

- You have side effects that don't improve and continue to get worse after a few days.
- You have any other symptom that is concerning to you.
- You develop chest pain, shortness of breath, or other severe symptoms, please call 9-1-1 or go to your nearest emergency room.