

COVID19.CA.GOV/Vaccines

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COVID-19 vaccination is one of the most important tools to end the COVID-19 pandemic. The State is prioritizing vaccines for equitable distribution to everyone in California who wants it. We expect to have enough supplies to vaccinate most Californians in all 58 counties by summer 2021.

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COVID-19 vaccines are here

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) issued [Emergency Use Authorizations \(EUA\) for two COVID-19 vaccines](#). More vaccines may be authorized early this year.

Learn more about FDA's [Emergency Use Authorization for Vaccines](#) and watch a [video on what an EUA is](#).

Vaccine safety is a top priority

COVID-19 vaccines authorized by the FDA have been shown to be safe and effective in clinical trials.

The U.S. vaccine safety system ensures that all vaccines are as safe as possible. Learn how the federal government is working to [ensure the safety of COVID-19 vaccines](#).

To ensure the COVID-19 vaccine meets safety requirements, California formed a [Scientific Safety Review Workgroup](#) of experts, which has confirmed that the COVID-19 vaccines authorized by FDA are safe and effective.

When can I get vaccinated?

California is distributing and vaccination providers are administering the vaccine as it becomes available. California will be transparent, careful, and equitable in its vaccine distribution.

Initially vaccine supply will be very limited. At first, vaccines will be provided to healthcare workers and long-term care residents in accordance with the [CDPH Allocation Guidelines](#).

California's COVID-19 Vaccine Plan

After healthcare workers and long-term care residents, the next to be vaccinated will be individuals who have higher risk for severe disease or death (due to age or other factors), who are unable to work at home, who live or work in geographic areas that have been highly impacted, or who are most likely to spread disease to other workers or to the public.

These individuals will be prioritized as follows:

Phase 1A

About 3 million people

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- Healthcare workers
 - Long-term care residents

See [CDPH Allocation Guidelines for Phase 1a](#).

Phase 1B

1B Tier One:

- Individuals 75 and older
- Those at risk of exposure at work in the following sectors: education,
- childcare, emergency services, and food and agriculture

1B Tier Two:

- Individuals 65 -74 years of age
- Those at risk of exposure at work in the following sectors:
- transportation and logistics; industrial, commercial, residential, and sheltering facilities and services; critical manufacturing Congregate settings with outbreak risk: incarcerated and homeless
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Phase 1C

Individuals 50 -64 years of age

People 16-64 years of age and have an underlying health condition or disability which increases their risk of severe COVID-19

Those at risk of exposure at work in the following sectors: water and wastewater; defense; energy; chemical and hazardous materials; communications and IT; financial services; government operations / community-based essential functions

How vaccine decisions are made

A group of experts and a group of community representatives work together to make sure vaccines are prioritized fairly.

Drafting Guidelines Workgroup

A Drafting Guidelines Workgroup is developing California-specific guidance for the prioritization and allocation of vaccines when supplies are limited.

See CDPH's [Workgroup page](#) for the vaccine's phasing and resource materials.

Community Vaccine Advisory Committee

The Community Vaccine Advisory Committee is providing input and feedback to the planning efforts and resolving barriers to equitable vaccine implementation and decision-making.

See CDPH's [committee activities page](#) for the upcoming meeting schedule and all meeting materials.

How COVID-19 vaccines work

Vaccines help our immune system fight infections in the future. COVID-19 vaccines will protect us from the virus that causes COVID-19 without having to get the illness.

It typically takes a few weeks after the last dose in a series to become fully protected.

On the days after taking the vaccine, you may have a sore arm, aches, fatigue or fever, but these are not harmful. These symptoms signal that your immune system is developing protection from the virus.

Benefits of getting vaccinated

COVID-19 vaccines are meant to prevent you from getting COVID-19 and from spreading it to others. The ability of COVID-19 vaccines to protect us from spreading the virus to others is not yet known, but is being studied carefully.

Spread the news about COVID-19 vaccines

Share that vaccination against COVID-19 is here. Visit the [COVID-19 Response Toolkit](#) page to find images and videos you can post on social media.