



Small State Big Deal



COVID-19 Vaccine Information

If I am young and healthy, why should I get the COVID-19 vaccine?

Just like the flu, the virus that causes COVID-19 is always changing, and protection from the COVID-19 vaccine declines over time. Getting your updated COVID-19 vaccine helps restore your protection avoid serious illness and hospitalization.

If I can still get sick, why should I get the COVID-19 vaccine?

The COVID-19 vaccine reduces the risk of getting very sick or having to be hospitalized due to COVID-19. The vaccine can also help prevent the spread of COVID-19 to people who are more at risk for severe COVID-19 illness, including older adults and people with underlying health conditions. COVID-19 vaccination also reduces your chance of experiencing Long COVID, which can last for an extended period of time.

Who is most at risk of being hospitalized or getting seriously ill from COVID-19 if they do not get vaccinated?

People with underlying health conditions are hospitalized with COVID-19 more often than those without underlying health conditions. Also, older adults are at an increased risk of hospitalization.

In the U.S., during the first six months of 2023:

- 2 in 3 people hospitalized with COVID-19 are adults over the age of 65 years.
- 90% of those hospitalized with COVID-19 had multiple underlying health conditions.

[Source: CDC](#)

How many doses of the COVID-19 vaccine will I need? Why wasn't the last one I got enough?

Everyone five years and older should get one dose of the updated COVID-19 vaccine, regardless of previous vaccination history. People with previous doses of COVID-19 vaccine should wait at least 2 months before getting the updated COVID-19 vaccine. Those with a weakened immune system may get additional doses of the COVID-19 vaccine. Everyone, regardless of vaccination history, should discuss all vaccine recommendations with their healthcare provider.

For children six months to five years, the number of doses will depend on previous doses. Parents and guardians should speak with a healthcare provider about all vaccine recommendations.



Get Vaccinated!

Where can people who are uninsured get the COVID-19 vaccine?

No-cost COVID-19 vaccines are available at healthcare providers, federally supported health centers, and retail pharmacy chains participating in the [Bridge Access Program](#).

The Rhode Island Department of Health sponsors school and community clinics through the SLV (school located vaccine) program. These clinics offer flu and COVID-19 vaccination at no cost and are listed at [schoolflu.com](#).

School clinics are only available October - December

[At-Home Vaccination](#) is available for people unable to leave their home.

Providers can be found at [vaccines.gov](#)



If I am pregnant or thinking about getting pregnant, how do I know the COVID-19 vaccine is safe for me and my baby?

Studies have shown that COVID-19 vaccination before and during pregnancy is safe and effective. Vaccination during pregnancy may help transfer protective antibodies to the baby through the placenta and breastmilk. These antibodies may lower the chance of the baby getting COVID-19 infection.

Speak with a healthcare provider about vaccination considerations and the [safety and effectiveness of COVID-19 vaccines](#) for people who are pregnant or breastfeeding.

Interested in learning more about the COVID-19 vaccine or hosting a COVID-19 vaccine clinic?

Email: RIDOH.COVID19Questions@health.ri.gov

COVID-19 Information Line: **401-222-8022** Monday-Friday 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

To review additional FAQs about the COVID-19 vaccine:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/faq.html>

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c19vaccineri.org

