

**STAY  
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DO  
YOUR PART.**

TOGETHER AGAINST COVID-19

# What to Expect

## at your COVID-19 Vaccination Appointment

Although millions of Americans are now fully vaccinated for COVID-19, there are still plenty of misunderstandings about the administration of the vaccine. It is critical that all Harris County residents feel comfortable with receiving these vaccines and possess an accurate understanding of what to expect at their vaccination appointments.

### Scheduling your appointment:

- You can schedule an appointment ahead of time. One option available to Harris County residents is to schedule their appointments through [StaySmartDoYourPart.com](http://StaySmartDoYourPart.com) or by calling (832) 927-8787.
- You don't need to schedule an appointment though. Walk-in appointments are accepted at many locations, so check appointment availability for your location at [StaySmartDoYourPart.com](http://StaySmartDoYourPart.com).
- There is NO cost to scheduling an appointment. It is completely free to receive a COVID-19 vaccination.
- You do not need insurance or proof of residency to schedule a COVID-19 vaccination appointment. The vaccine is available for free to everyone over the age of 12, including the uninsured.



### After your first appointment:

- If you receive an mRNA COVID-19 vaccine—either the Pfizer-BioNTech or Moderna COVID-19 vaccines—then you will need two shots to be fully protected.
- If you received the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine, you should get your second shot three weeks (or 21 days) after your first. If you received the Moderna COVID-19 Vaccine, you should get your second shot four weeks (or 28 days) after your first. You should get your second shot as close to the recommended three-week or four-week interval as possible.
- Bring your vaccine card to your second appointment. If you lost your card, contact the provider of the first vaccine directly to access your vaccination record.



### Before your appointment:

- Before you arrive, review your appointment confirmation for any details about any identification you may need to bring to your vaccination appointment.

### During your appointment:

- When you get a vaccine, you and your health-care provider will both need to wear masks that cover your nose and mouth. Stay six feet away from others while indoors.
- You should receive a fact sheet (either paper or electronic) that provides more information about the vaccine that you receive.
- After you receive the vaccine, you should be monitored on-site for at least 15 minutes by the vaccine provider.
- You should receive a card from the vaccine provider with information about the vaccine that you received, the date you received it, and the site you received it at. Make sure to keep that card in case you need it for future use. You may want to consider taking a picture of this card when you receive it as a backup.



### After receiving the vaccine:

- People are only considered fully vaccinated two weeks after their second shot in a two-dose series, like the Pfizer or Moderna vaccines, or two weeks after a single-shot vaccine, like Johnson & Johnson's COVID-19 vaccine.
- Minor adverse effects are normal signs that your body is building protection. Common adverse effects may include pain at the injection site, tiredness, headache, muscle and joint pain, or chills and fever. If your adverse effects are worrying you or do not seem to be going away after a few days, contact your doctor.
- The vaccine does not contain the virus so it cannot give you COVID-19. After you are fully vaccinated, follow CDC recommendations for precautions and public gatherings to help you make decisions on safely resuming certain activities.