

# COVID-19 vaccines: Get the facts

**Once I receive both doses of the vaccine, can I stop wearing a mask and expand my social circle?**

**FACT:** Even after being vaccinated, everyone must continue to follow public health measures, including minimizing in-person interactions with people from outside your immediate household, avoiding crowded places, wearing a mask, and washing your hands frequently for at least 20 seconds.

**Will I develop side effects after receiving a COVID-19 vaccine?**

**FACT:** Side effects can often be a sign of a healthy immune system building a defense to the virus. Side effects are generally non-serious and resolve on their own in a few days. Serious side effects, such as anaphylactic reactions, are rare and closely watched for. Talk to your healthcare provider if you have any concerns, or if your side effects are serious, worsen, or do not go away after a couple of days.

**Is it better to wait to get the vaccine (or not get it at all) until we know for sure it's safe and effective?**

**FACT:** All COVID-19 vaccines currently available in Canada have gone through clinical trials and been tested on tens of thousands of adult volunteers before being authorized for use. They were deemed to be safe and effective and have been licensed and authorized by Health Canada. The COVID-19 vaccines protect us against the novel coronavirus and are an important step to help us safely resume normal life.

**Why are Indigenous adults among the first to be offered the vaccine in Canada?**

**FACT:** Indigenous adults and communities are being prioritized for access to vaccines for a few reasons: they have significantly higher chances of having serious illness from COVID-19 than other Canadians; and they face higher risks for infection and serious illness, rooted in the history of colonialization and resulting systemic barriers, such as higher rates of chronic disease, reduced access to health care, and a lack of infrastructure (such as housing, water infrastructure, and medical services).

**WE CAN ALL DO OUR PART IN PREVENTING THE SPREAD OF COVID-19.**

For more information, consult your healthcare provider, or visit [Canada.ca/coronavirus](https://Canada.ca/coronavirus)

