

As of May 13, 2021, individuals age 12 and older are eligible to receive the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine.

The LaSalle Council is sharing with you the information below regarding COVID-19 vaccinations. As always, you should consult with your family physician regarding any questions or concerns that you may have about the vaccine.

General Information

Q: Is the COVID-19 vaccine free?

A: Yes. The COVID-19 shot is free to everyone in Indiana. You do NOT need insurance to get it. However, providers can bill insurance a fee, so bring your insurance card if you have one.

Q: Where do I go to register for the vaccine?

A: Go to ourshot.in.gov or call 211 to find a vaccination site and register. Walk-in appointments are also accepted at most vaccination sites.

Q: I need a copy of my vaccination certificate — how do I get one?

A: Use the [Access Indiana](https://accessindiana.gov) portal to view or download your vaccination certificate. Use your Access Indiana account or create a new one to view or print your vaccine certificate. Find FAQs about Access Indiana [here](#).

Q. How many doses of the COVID-19 vaccine will I need?

A. The Pfizer and Moderna COVID-19 vaccines require two doses – 21 to 42 days apart for Pfizer and 28 to 42 days apart for Moderna. It is imperative to complete the full course of treatment, which includes a second dose of the vaccine, to achieve maximum protection. The Johnson & Johnson vaccine requires only one dose.

Q. Is the vaccine safe?

A. Being immunized against COVID-19 can prevent you from getting the virus and protect others around you. The vaccine has been found in trials to be 95 percent effective in preventing COVID-19 infections in participants, and its side effects are generally mild, including fatigue, headache and sometimes fever for a day or two.

While the COVID-19 vaccine is new, the science used to create it is not. The COVID-19 vaccine has been thoroughly tested in laboratory and clinical settings to make sure it is safe and effective. The FDA approved the vaccines under an Emergency Use Authorization (EUA), meaning the vaccine must be proven safe and effective in the same way that all medications and devices must be. Scientists will continue to study the effects of the vaccine for the next few years. The vaccine would not be approved for use if it were harmful or unsafe.

As with all pharmaceuticals, a patient's response to a vaccine is unique to their individual body and medical history. We encourage all members to discuss the vaccine with their physician before administration.

Q. Why should I receive a vaccine?

A. The vaccine is the most effective tool for ending this global pandemic. We encourage all of our members, as well as all members of our community, to consider a vaccine.

Vaccines have been shown to be 95 percent effective in preventing symptomatic COVID-19 when administered in two doses.

Q. Do I have to receive the vaccine?

A. We believe that the decision to receive a vaccine is a personal one that should be made in consultation with a physician. However, the vaccine is the most effective tool for ending this global pandemic.

While not mandatory, we encourage our members, as well as all members of our community, to consider a vaccine.

Q. Can I get COVID-19 from the vaccine?

A. No, it is a myth that you'll get COVID-19 from the COVID-19 vaccine. You will not get COVID-19 from the vaccine because it does not use the live virus.

It typically takes a few weeks for the body to build immunity after vaccination. It is possible to become infected with the virus that causes COVID-19 just before or just after vaccination and get sick—this is because the vaccine has not had enough time to provide protection.

Q. Once I get vaccinated, will I test positive on a COVID-19 viral test?

A. The COVID-19 vaccine will not cause you to test positive on viral tests. If your body develops an immune response, which is the goal of vaccination, there is a possibility you may test positive on some antibody tests.

Q. What should I expect at my appointment and what should I bring when it's my time to get the vaccine?

A. The Indiana Department of Health has information in English and Spanish to help you prepare for your vaccination appointment — please see the links below in the next section for complete details.

Bring:

1. Mask - You will need to wear it at the clinic to keep you and the person giving you the shot safe.
2. Proof of eligibility:
You will need to confirm your date of birth, but you will not need to provide a photo ID for verification, and you can still get the COVID-19 shot if you do not have an ID. Please bring anything that has your name and date of birth printed on it, current or expired. This could be an ID, birth certificate, letter from your doctor, medical record, discharge paperwork, or other document with this information. You will not have to show proof of U.S. citizenship.
3. Insurance Card (not required) - The COVID-19 shot is free to everyone in Indiana. You do NOT need insurance to get it. However, providers can bill insurance a fee,

so bring your insurance card if you have one.

4. Parent or adult – An adult must accompany children age 12-15 to the vaccine appointment. If the adult present is not the parent or guardian, consent must be submitted in advance. For anyone age 16-17 it's preferred that a parent or guardian accompany the minor to the vaccination site. We understand this may not always be possible. In those cases, the parent or guardian can provide written or verbal authorization.

- [Teen Vaccination Fact Sheet](#)
- Vaccination Site Tour ([English](#)) ([Spanish](#))
- How to Be Prepared: What to Bring When You Get Your COVID-19 Vaccine ([English](#)) ([Spanish](#))

Q. If I have already had COVID-19 and recovered or received monoclonal antibodies or convalescent serum, do I still need to get the COVID-19 vaccine?

A. People who have gotten sick with COVID-19 may still benefit from getting vaccinated once they have recovered. People who have received monoclonal antibodies or convalescent serum should wait for at least 90 days before getting the vaccine.

Q. I've had my first vaccine dose, and I am now COVID positive. Should I still be receiving my second dose?

A: People should be recovered, symptom-free and out of isolation before getting their second dose of the vaccine. This is true even if it means you receive your second dose after the recommended timing, which is 21–42 days (for Pfizer vaccine) or 28–42 days (for Moderna vaccine). You must have no symptoms and wait the appropriate isolation time before receiving your second dose. Here are the self-isolation guidelines for when you can be with others from the Indiana Department of Health:

1. If you think you had COVID-19, or tested positive for it, and had symptoms at some point (all of the following apply):
 - At least 10 days have passed since your symptoms first appeared; AND
 - At least 24 hours have passed with no fever and no use of fever-reducing medication; AND
 - Other symptoms are improving; though loss of taste and smell may persist for weeks or months and needn't delay the end of isolation.
2. If you tested positive for COVID-19 but had no symptoms, you can be with others after 10 days since the date of your positive test.
3. If you were severely ill with COVID-19 or have a severely weakened immune system (immunocompromised) due to a health condition or medication:
 - If you were severely ill with COVID-19, you might need to stay home longer, up to 20 days after symptoms first appeared.

Q: Is there anyone who should not get the vaccine?

- According to the CDC's Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices, people who have a history of severe allergic reaction (e.g., anaphylaxis) after a previous dose or to a component of the COVID-19 vaccine, or who have an immediate allergic reaction of any severity to a previous dose or diagnosed allergy to a component of the vaccine should not get vaccinated at this time.
- Note: COVID-19 vaccine can now be administered at the same time as other vaccines.

Q: If I'm pregnant or breast feeding, should I plan to receive the vaccine?

A: Pregnant or lactating women may receive the vaccine if they choose, however, pregnant, lactating, and post-partum people aged <50 years should be aware of the rare risk of rare blood clots after receipt of the Janssen COVID-19 vaccine and the availability of other FDA-authorized COVID-19 vaccines. Safety data in this population is limited and continues to be monitored. A woman who is pregnant or lactating should consult with her physician if there are questions about what is best for her and her baby, although conversation with a healthcare provider is not required before vaccination.

Q: Why should I wait to take over-the-counter painkillers *after* my second dose of vaccine instead of before it?

A: Medications like Tylenol and ibuprofen can sometimes decrease your body's immune response somewhat. So, it is recommend that you not take those before you get the vaccine. Afterwards, especially if you're pregnant or develop a fever after the second shot, it's absolutely appropriate to take some Tylenol or ibuprofen for pain.

Q. What do I need to know about quarantining after I have received my second dose of vaccine?

A. You are no longer required to quarantine following an exposure to someone with COVID-19 if fully vaccinated (you've had both doses) and you meet specific criteria:

- Are fully vaccinated (2 weeks after getting final dose)
- Are within 3 months after getting the last dose
- No COVID-19 symptoms

Anyone who doesn't meet all three of the above criteria should continue to follow current [quarantine guidance](#) after exposure to someone with suspected or confirmed COVID-19. More information on [Guidance for Fully Vaccinated People](#) is available from the CDC.

Q. What is an Emergency Use Authorization, or EUA?

A. An EUA is granted by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) during a public health emergency to allow the use of a drug to diagnose, treat, or prevent serious or life-threatening diseases or conditions for which there are no adequate, approved, and available alternatives. (Source: [FDA](#)) The article "[What is Emergency Use Authorization?](#)" on the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health [website](#) offers a comprehensive look at EUAs.

Vaccine Clinic Information

Q: What safety measures are in place during the vaccine clinic?

A: Individuals coming to a clinic can expect to follow safety precautions such as performing self-screening for symptoms, wearing surgical masks, using hand sanitizer and social/physical distancing. Clinic workers will be wearing appropriate PPE and following established safety precautions.

Q: Do I need to stay for an observation period after I receive the vaccine?

A: Recommendations from ISDH include a 15-minute observation period after receiving the vaccine. If you have had a previous allergic reaction to a medical injectable you will be asked to stay for a 30-minute observation. Vaccine appointments will be staggered

and socially distanced seating will be available at the clinic to allow for the observation period.

Q: When do I need to schedule my second appointment?

A: You will be prompted to schedule your second appointment after you receive your first vaccine.

Helping Our Community

Q: Can Indiana residents who are homebound receive the vaccine at home? A: The Homebound Hoosier vaccination program is helping homebound individuals who meet current vaccine eligibility requirements by the State of Indiana. Individuals should contact their local Area Agency on Aging to get on the list for an in-home vaccination. Contact the Area Agency on Aging at 800-986-3505 or REAL Services:

- Elkhart County: 574.322.4185
- Kosciusko County: 574.269.1173
- LaPorte County: 219.324.4199
- Marshall County: 574.936.3175
- St. Joseph County: 574-284-2644

Q: Can people bring someone with them to the vaccine clinic if they need assistance?

A: Yes. Those who need assistance getting in and out of the facility are welcome to bring one support person with them. Everyone entering a clinic will need to answer health screening questions upon arrival and will need to wear a mask and maintain social distancing from others at all times.

Q: Can individuals ages 12 to 18 come to the vaccine clinic by themselves?

A: Individuals ages 12-15 years old **MUST** have a parent or guardian present. Individuals ages 16-18 years old can be vaccinated with a parent/guardian present or with written permission