



Frequently asked questions about the COVID-19 Vaccine for Small Business Owners and Employees

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When can my employees get vaccinated?

Now! Most sites in Pima County are now offering vaccines to all individuals over 12 years of age.

Can I require my employees to be vaccinated?

Yes, you can require that your employees get vaccinated. Employers are expected to provide a safe workplace based on the [General Duty Clause from OSHA](#). Employees, however, have a right to request an exemption for medical or religious reasons. Check out the [CDC Workplace Vaccination Program](#) for more information.

Where can my employees get the vaccine?

There are multiple locations across [Pima County](#) that do not require an appointment and include mobile clinics and vaccination PODs.

Sites include:

- **Veteran's Administration:** If you are a patient of the VA you may be eligible to receive your vaccine at the VA. Find out more [here](#)
- **El Rio Health:** If you are a patient of El Rio Health, you can walk in during normal business hours to receive your vaccine or call (520) 670-3909 for more information.
- [CVS Pharmacy](#)
- [Costco](#)
- [Walgreens](#)
- **More locations:** Click [here](#) to find one close to you.

Do I need to have an email to register for the vaccine?

Some locations or sites may require an email to register for the vaccine. On-site registration is available at locations like El Rio Health Center and some pharmacies. You can receive telephone assistance for registration by calling the Pima County registration hotline Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. at (520) 222-0119.

You can receive assistance with scheduling in Spanish by calling 1-833-636-1122 or by using the new CDC WhatsApp chat that can be accessed by scanning a QR code available through this [link](#).

Once vaccinated, do we have to wear facemasks?

Individuals are not considered to be [fully vaccinated](#) until 2 weeks after their final vaccine dose. Even if you have been fully vaccinated for at least two weeks, the [CDC](#)



still recommends that you wear face masks in public, socially distance, avoid large gatherings, and frequently wash your hands.

While fully vaccinated people are no longer mandated to wear a face mask or social distance in Arizona, institutions and businesses can choose to require employees and customers to wear masks. Fully vaccinated people can still become infected with COVID-19 and should get tested if symptoms appear. Symptomatic individuals should isolate, even if previously vaccinated.

The Pima Health Department now strongly recommends individuals to continue to wear a face mask in public indoor places where social distancing can not be maintained. This includes fully vaccinated people as well as those who have not been vaccinated. Please click [here](#) to see up-to-date guidelines in Pima County.

Do I have to pay for the vaccine or do I need insurance?

No, vaccinations are free. You may be asked for your insurance information. If you have insurance, your insurance may receive a bill but *you will not*. If you do not have insurance, you can still make a vaccination appointment and receive your vaccine. More information [here](#).

Do I need to present any documents at my vaccine appointment?

Bring identification with you showing your name, and make sure that when you register you use the same name that appears on your identification.

For your second appointment, make sure you bring the vaccination card that you received at the first appointment.

Will I get paid time off if I leave work early to get vaccinated?

This will depend on your employer - ask your employer if you can receive paid time off for your vaccine appointment.

Should I make a plan to help my employees get vaccinated?

Here is some helpful information about workplace plans from the [CDC](#).

Can non-residents of Arizona receive the vaccine?

Yes, they can. You do not have to be a resident of Arizona to get vaccinated in Pima County.

What are the side effects of the vaccine?

- The most common side effect is soreness at the site of injection. Other side effects include fatigue, headache, muscle aches, chills, joint pain, and possibly some fever. These usually last 24-48 hours and no more than a few days and are a good sign that your body is building immunity to the coronavirus!



- See [advice](#) on how to minimize your side effects and increase effectiveness of the vaccine.
- Side effects may vary with the type of COVID-19 vaccine. See the website for your vaccine for more information:
 - [Pfizer](#)
 - [Moderna](#)
 - [Johnson & Johnson](#)

Can I get COVID-19 between doses?

Yes, you are not fully protected until 2 weeks after your final vaccine dose. If you receive the Johnson & Johnson you will only get one dose, and are considered protected two weeks after that dose. Check out more [tips!](#)

Should I get the second vaccine from the same brand as the first?

Yes, if you received a two-dose vaccine (Pfizer or Moderna) your second dose should be the same brand as your first. You can check what brand you received on your vaccination card.

If I received a vaccine that required two doses, do I need to get a third dose?

The [CDC](#) now recommends that [people with moderately to severely compromised immune systems](#) receive an additional dose of mRNA COVID-19 vaccine at least 28 days after the second dose of the Pfizer or Moderna vaccine. People recommended to get an additional dose include those with one or more of the health conditions listed [here](#).

You should talk to a healthcare provider about whether getting an additional dose is appropriate for you. The additional vaccine dose should [be the same brand](#) as the doses you have received before.

The CDC does not recommend additional doses or booster shots for anyone else at this time.

Should I still get vaccinated if I've had COVID-19 before?

Yes, it is still highly recommended to get vaccinated, even if you have already been diagnosed with COVID-19 or think you may have had COVID-19. If you were hospitalized or received medical treatment for your symptoms, you should talk to your doctor about when you can get vaccinated. While rare, it is still possible to get re-infected with either the COVID-19 virus or its variants, even after already becoming ill from COVID-19 and getting vaccinated. The vaccine is thought to be effective at [minimizing serious symptoms from COVID-19 infections](#).

If you have any doubts or questions about vaccines, please contact your healthcare provider.



Other useful sites:

- [How mRNA COVID-19 Vaccines Work](#)
- [COVID-19 Vaccine: Myths vs. Facts](#)