

MONO COUNTY COVID-19 VACCINE FAQ

Safe and effective COVID-19 vaccines will be essential tools to end the COVID-19 pandemic. California is planning to distribute and administer vaccines as quickly as possible. This will be done only after each new vaccine's safety has been reviewed and approved by top health experts. Initial vaccine supply will be limited, and public health officials at the national and state level are making sure that these first vaccines are distributed and administered equitably. The first vaccines will be provided to frontline healthcare workers and residents of long-term care facilities.

It will take some time before the vaccine is readily available to everyone, and while experts learn more about the protection vaccines provide, it's important to keep using all the tools available to us to help slow virus transmission. This includes wearing masks, washing hands, and staying 6 feet apart. It is also recommended that you add your phone to the fight by using CA Notify.

Together we can Stop the Surge!

How is California planning for vaccine?

California will be transparent, careful, and equitable in distributing COVID-19 vaccines. Goals of the CDC COVID-19 Vaccine Program are as follows:

- Ensure safety and effectiveness of COVID-19 vaccines
- Reduce transmission, morbidity, mortality of COVID-19 disease
- Help minimize disruption to society and the economy, including maintaining healthcare capacity
- Ensure equity in vaccine allocation and distribution

Learn more about the State of California COVID-19 Vaccination Plan:

https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/CDPH%20Document%20Library/COVID-19/COVID-19-Vaccination-Plan-California-Interim-Draft_V1.0.pdf

How is Mono County planning for vaccine distribution and immunization?

Mono County will follow federal and state guidance for prioritizing persons to be vaccinated. We anticipate that by the end of December 2020 frontline healthcare workers, including Emergency Medical Services and Mammoth Hospital personnel will have received vaccination, if they choose to do so. As more vaccine is allocated to Mono County, we will expand vaccination to other essential personnel and the community, focusing initially on higher risk people.

Learn more about the Mono County vaccination plan: (<https://monohealth.com/public-health/page/immunization-program>).

When will vaccines be available in Mono County?

The first shipments of COVID-19 vaccine arrived in Mono County on December 21, 2020. Initial supplies are limited, but will increase in the coming months.

Who will get the vaccine first?

The limited initial vaccines will go to frontline healthcare workers. As the supply of vaccine increases, those with the highest risk of becoming infected and spreading COVID-19 will receive vaccines. The CDC phased allocation of COVID-19 vaccines is as follows:

PHASE 1

Phase 1a – Tier One

- Acute care, psychiatric and correctional facility hospitals
- Skilled nursing facilities, assisted living facilities and similar settings for older or medically vulnerable individuals
- Paramedics, EMT's and others providing emergency medical services
- Dialysis centers

Phase 1a – Tier Two

- Intermediate care facilities for persons who need non-continuous nursing supervision and supportive care
- Home health care and in-home supportive services
- Community health workers, including promotoras
- Public health field staff
- Primary care clinics, including federally qualified health centers, rural health centers, correctional facility clinics and urgent care clinics

Phase 1a – Tier Three

- Other settings and health care workers
- Specialty clinics
- Laboratory workers
- Dental and other oral health clinics
- Pharmacy staff not working in settings at higher tiers.

Phase 1b – Tier One

- People aged 75 years and older because they are at high risk of hospitalization, illness, and death from COVID-19.
- Food and agriculture
- Education and childcare
- Emergency Services

Phase 1b – Tier Two

- People aged 65 years and older with an underlying health condition and/or disability.
- Incarcerated individuals – jails and prisons
- Homeless/Unhoused
- Transportation and logistics
- Industrial, residential and commercial
- Critical manufacturing

Phase 1c – Tier One

- People aged 65-74 years
- People aged 16—64 years with underlying medical conditions which increase the risk of serious, life-threatening complications from COVID-19.
- Water and waster management, defense energy, chemical and hazardous, communications and IT and financial services
- Government Operations and Community Services

PHASE 2-3

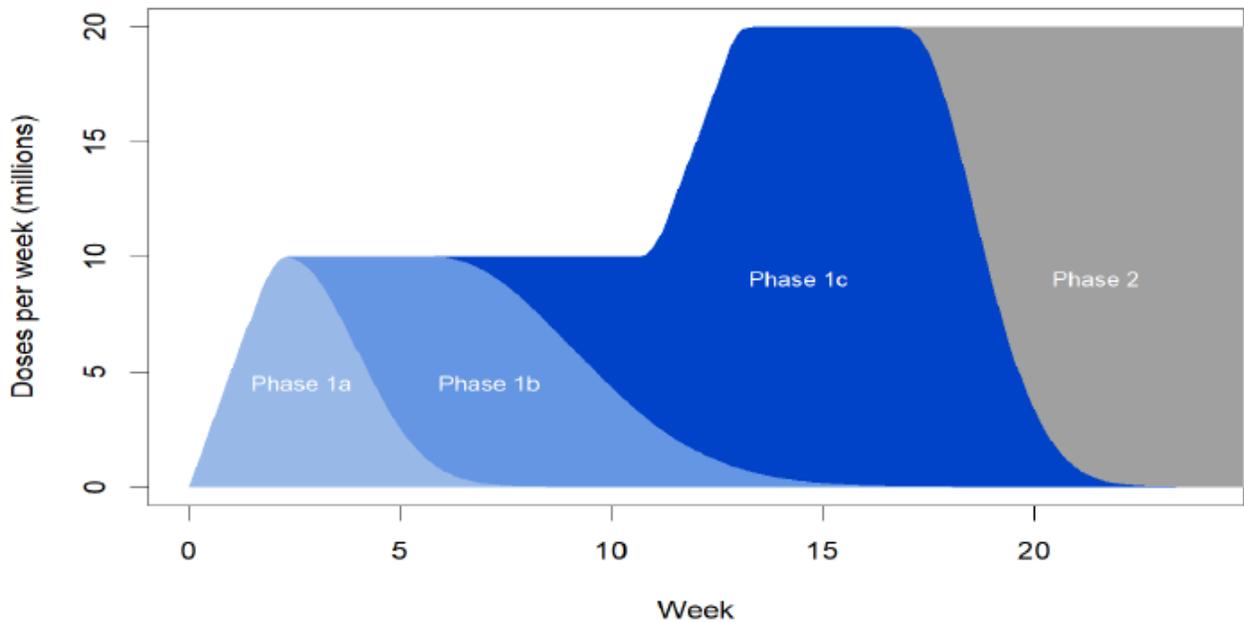
- Young adults
- Workers in industries and occupations important to the functioning of society and at increased risk of exposure not included in Phases 1a, 1b and 1c.

As vaccine availability increases, vaccination recommendations will expand to include more groups. For additional information about the CDC recommendations please visit this page: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/recommendations.html> or reviewing the CDPH Allocation Guidelines for COVID-19 Vaccine During Phase 1A - Recommendations: <https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/Pages/COVID-19/CDPH-Allocation-Guidelines-for-COVID-19-Vaccine-During-Phase-1A-Recommendations.aspx>.

*Guidance on The Essential Critical Infrastructure Workforce: <https://www.cisa.gov/publication/guidance-essential-critical-infrastructure-workforce>

What is the timing of vaccine distribution by Phase?

The graph below is an example of Phase 1 & Phase 2 COVID-19 vaccination roll-out.



Where will I go to get vaccinated?

This information will be published on the [Mono County COVID portal](#), the Public Health Department [Immunization page](#), social media, local newspapers, and radio ads.

Do I need to pre-register to receive the vaccine?

Yes, there will be a weblink provided to register once the schedule has been established. Walk-ins will be registered onsite.

How will I be notified to receive the vaccine?

Notification for eligibility of the vaccine will be provided in print, text, and email.

What do I need to bring to get vaccinated?

Some form of identification that demonstrates you are a Mono County resident.

Will I receive proof of vaccination?

Yes

How do I know when to return for the second (booster) dose?

You will receive an email or text notification.

How many doses are needed for the vaccine to be effective?

Most of the COVID-19 vaccines currently in development in the United States need two doses several weeks apart to be effective.

Is the vaccine free?

Yes, Mono County residents receive the vaccine for free. Persons from outside Mono County should be vaccinated in their county of residence.

Am I required to take the vaccine?

No, it is completely voluntary.

Is the vaccine approved for children?

The Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine is approved for individuals 16 years of age or older, while the Moderna COVID-19 vaccine is approved for individuals 18 years of age or older.

If there are a few different vaccines approved, which one is best for me? Can I get both?

The FDA has approved both the Pfizer and Moderna Vaccine for emergency use (EUA). They are both two-shot series, the second shot must be the same brand of vaccine. The type of vaccine will be based on the type of vaccine Mono County receives and will vary as production ramps up.

What are the side-effects of the vaccine?

The most commonly reported side effects, which typically lasted several days, were pain at the injection site, tiredness, headache, muscle pain, chills, joint pain, and fever. In addition, more people experienced these side effects after the second dose than after the first dose, so it is important for vaccination providers and recipients to expect that there may be some side effects after either dose, but even more so after the second dose.

What steps are being taken to ensure that COVID-19 vaccines are safe?

The U.S. vaccine safety system ensures that all vaccines are as safe as possible. California also formed a Scientific Safety Review Work Group comprised of nationally recognized immunization, public health, academic and other experts to review vaccine safety. The work group is staying abreast of vaccine candidate(s) trials, evidence of safety and efficacy, and other information to independently provide recommendations to California leadership as well as ensure public confidence in vaccine safety, efficacy, and implementation efforts.

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has rigorous scientific and regulatory processes in place to facilitate development and ensure the safety, effectiveness and quality of COVID-19 vaccines. On December 11, 2020, the Pfizer vaccine was officially approved for emergency use.

On December 18, the FDA issued an emergency use authorization (EUA) for the second vaccine for the prevention of coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) caused by severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2). The emergency use authorization allows the Moderna COVID-19 Vaccine to be distributed in the U.S. for use in individuals 18 years of age and older.

- FDA – COVID-19 Vaccine information: (<https://www.fda.gov/emergency-preparedness-and-response/coronavirus-disease-2019-covid-19/covid-19-vaccines>)
- CDC - Frequently Asked Questions about COVID-19 Vaccination: (<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/faq.html>)
- FDA News Release, December 18, 2020: <https://www.fda.gov/news-events/press-announcements/fda-takes-additional-action-fight-against-covid-19-issuing-emergency-use-authorization-second-covid>

If I get the vaccine, will I still have to wear a mask?

Yes. While experts learn more about the protection that COVID-19 vaccines provide under real-life conditions, it will be important for everyone to continue using all the tools available to us to help slow virus transmission, like wearing masks, washing hands and physical distancing.

Should people who have gotten sick with COVID still get vaccinated?

Due to the severe health risks associated with COVID-19 and the fact that re-infection with COVID-19 is possible, people may be advised to get a COVID-19 vaccine even if they have been sick with COVID-19 before. At this time, we do not know how long someone is protected from getting sick again after recovering from COVID-19, but re-infection is particularly rare within 3 months of infection so it is reasonable to defer vaccination until at least 90 days have passed since an infection. We won't know how long immunity produced by vaccination lasts until we have a vaccine and more data on how well it works.

Where do I go get additional information regarding COVID-19 vaccinations in Mono County?

Please visit the “Immunization Program” page on the Mono County Health Department website: <https://monohealth.com/public-health>.