

## Why are vaccines important?

**Vaccines protect us from diseases like measles, mumps, and seasonal flu. They helped stop the spread of other diseases like smallpox and polio.**



## How do I know a COVID-19 vaccine is safe?

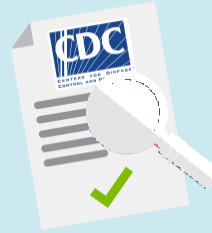
**Vaccines must pass tough safety measures before they become available like:**



**Vaccine trials.**



**FDA approval.**



**CDC safety monitoring.**



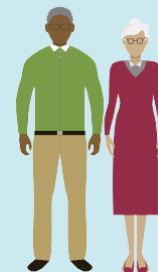
**Independent safety monitoring.**

## What happens when a vaccine becomes available?

**Initially, supplies will be limited. People at highest risk will receive the vaccine first, like:**



**People who work in healthcare and first responders who treat patients with COVID-19.**



**Older adults in congregate care settings.**

# COVID-19 Vaccine

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## How do vaccines work?

**Vaccines help your body recognize the virus if you are exposed. When enough people's bodies know how to fight off a virus, the virus can't spread as easily. Vaccines are one of the greatest success stories in public health.**

## Do we know if the vaccine is equally safe for all racial and ethnic groups?

**Yes. Studies of the two available vaccines show they are equally safe across all racial, ethnic, age, and gender groups. Participants in the clinical trials reflected the U.S. population. This helped assess broad safety and effectiveness. We will only support and distribute a vaccine that shows safety and effectiveness across all groups.**

## How can I find out when I am able to get the vaccine?

**The State Department of Health determines who will have access to the vaccine first. Learn about the phased approach to vaccine allocation and more at [covidvaccinewa.org](https://covidvaccinewa.org).**

## How is COVID-19 vaccine development different than other vaccines?

**The COVID-19 development process is the same as with other vaccines, but some steps are happening at the same time to produce a safe and effective vaccine, faster. For example, the clinical safety trials and vaccine production are happening at the same time so the vaccine is ready and available as soon as we know it's safe and effective. Any vaccines that do not successfully complete clinical trials will be destroyed.**

## How do I protect myself from COVID-19 before I can get the vaccine?

**Help keep the disease from spreading when you:**

- **Mask up—cover your mouth and nose—when around others.**
- **Avoid close contact with others, especially people who are sick.**
- **Stay six feet away from people outside your household.**
- **Avoid crowds and gatherings.**
- **Wash your hands often.**
- **Stay home if you're sick.**

**Get more information about these and other steps you can take to protect yourself and others from COVID-19 at [tpchd.org/coronavirus](https://tpchd.org/coronavirus).**

