HEART OF THE ROCKIES
REGIONAL MEDICAL CENTER

Who is going to receive the first round of vaccines?

The Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) has created a three-phase vaccine distribution plan, with **Phase 1** divided into **Phase 1A** and **Phase 1B**. **Phase 1A** includes highest-risk health care workers, the top tier of Coloradans to receive the vaccine first. This includes health care workers who have direct contact with COVID-19 patients for 15 minutes or more over a 24-hour period. Long-term care facility staff and residents are also part of **Phase 1A**.

When will members of the public be able to receive the vaccine?
How do I sign up to receive the vaccine?

The Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment's (CDPHE) vaccine distribution plan is divided into three phases. Please see that outline included below, and also on their website: https://covid19.colorado.gov/vaccine

If you are between the ages of 18-64, and have no high-risk health conditions, it is likely the vaccine will be available to you sometime in mid-2021. All timelines are subject to change based on availability, supply and demand of COVID-19 vaccines.

If you are interested in receiving the vaccine, but are not a highest-risk health care or frontline worker in **Phase 1A** or **1B**, please reach out to your primary care provider (PCP). All PCPs will be identifying which CDPHE phase their patients fall into, and will work directly with HRRMC and Chaffee County Public Health on next steps for vaccinations.

PHASE 1
Winter

1A

Highest-risk health care workers and individuals:

- People who have direct contact with COVID-19 patients for 15 minutes or more over a 24-hour period.
- Long-term care facility staff and residents.

1B

Moderate-risk health care workers and responders:

- Health care workers with less direct contact with COVID-19 patients.
- Workers in home health/hospice and dental settings.
- EMS, firefighters, police, correctional workers, dispatchers, funeral services, other first responders, and COVID-19 response personnel.

PHASE 2
Spring

2

Higher-risk individuals and essential workers:

- People age 65 or older.
- People of any age with obesity, diabetes, chronic lung disease, significant heart disease, chronic kidney disease, cancer, or are immunocompromised.
- People who interact directly with the public at work, such as grocery store workers and school staff.
- People who work in high density settings like farms and meat-packing plants.
- Workers serving people that live in high-density settings.
- Other health care workers not covered in Phase 1.
- Adults who received a placebo during a COVID-19 vaccine clinical trial.

PHASE 3
Summer

3

The general public:

- Anyone age 18-64 without high risk conditions.

*Timeline subject to change based on supply chain. Prioritization subject to change based on data, science, availability.
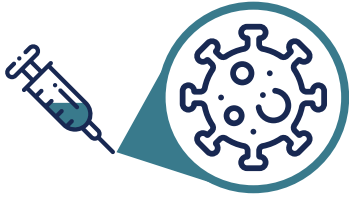
Note: CDPHE recognizes the Tribal sovereignty of the Ute Mountain Ute and Southern Ute Indian Tribes, and that the Tribes have the authority to determine how vaccine supply will be prioritized for their populations, even if their prioritization scheme is different than what CDPHE recommends. Federal entities such as the Bureau of Prisons, Department of Defense, Department of State, Veteran's Hospital Association, and Indian Health Services will be vaccinated by the federal government. Children and pregnant people are not included in this preliminary phased approach; they may be prioritized for vaccine contemporaneously when/if safety and efficacy data are available with the appropriate ACIP recommendation.

Where will the vaccine be available to the public in Chaffee County?

Once the county has been able to vaccinate all **Phase 1A** and **1B** health care workers, individuals and responders, vaccinations will begin on the general public. Those locations will be shared once we move closer to **Phase 2**, which includes vaccinations of higher-risk individuals and essential workers. It is very likely that eventually, Chaffee County Public Health will be overseeing this process and will determine the best locations for vaccine administration that will accommodate residents in the north and south ends of the county.

Can I get COVID-19 from a vaccine?

A COVID-19 vaccine will give you protection against the disease without getting sick with the actual virus. It is not possible to get COVID-19 from the vaccine, but it is possible to get symptoms that are consistent with COVID-19. The goal of the vaccine is to provide your body with the tools it needs to fight the COVID-19 virus if you were to get infected.

Do I need to quarantine from possible exposure if I have received two doses of the vaccine?

It could take up to one to two weeks after your last dose of the vaccine to have protection. After that time, because the vaccine has shown high effectiveness, but we are awaiting further guidance from the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) and the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) before coming to any definitive conclusion on quarantining after you've been vaccinated.

What are the side effects of the vaccine?

The process of building immunity can cause symptoms. The most commonly reported side effects for the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine are pain and redness at the injection site, fatigue, headache, muscle pain, chills, joint pain, and fever for 1-2 days after receiving the vaccine. Side effects may differ among other COVID-19 vaccines.

For in-depth information about the side effects of the Pfizer vaccines, see the FDA's briefing materials on the vaccine's clinical trials.
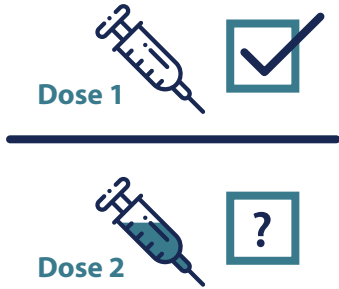
What would happen if the COVID-19 vaccine turned out to have serious side effects?

Scientific data shows that generally, the most serious side effects associated with a vaccine occur within six (6) weeks of vaccine administration. The available COVID-19 vaccines have been studied for a period of time longer than six weeks, and those companies have not identified or reported serious safety concerns. To date, the independent safety monitoring board overseeing **Phase 3** trials of the Pfizer and Moderna vaccines has not found any serious safety concerns.

The FDA and CDC will continue to closely monitor vaccine safety as the vaccine becomes more readily available to the public. If safety monitoring reveals new information about vaccine risks – such as new serious side effects – a vaccine may be removed from the market. Learn more about the vaccine safety monitoring systems.

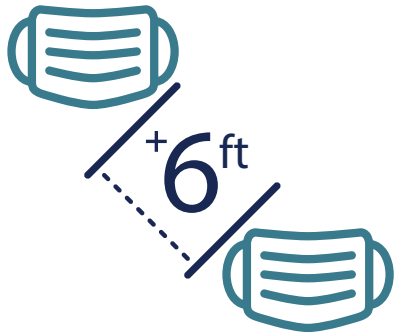### Do I have to get the second dose of the vaccine in order for it to be effective?

It is very important that you receive the second dose of your COVID-19 vaccine on time.

The time frame between the vaccine's first and second dose is determined by the companies producing the vaccine to maximize your body's ability to create antibodies against the virus. Plan accordingly so that you are able to get the second dose of your vaccine at the right time.

We strongly recommend that you get both doses from the same vaccine provider. Because of limited vaccine supply, your vaccine provider will need to place the order for your second dose after administering your first dose. This process ensures that the state's weekly allocation from the federal government will have enough second doses of the same vaccine product at the right time.

Dose 1

Dose 2

NOTE

The second dose of any COVID-19 vaccine must be the same vaccine brand as the first dose.
For example, if the first dose you received was of the Pfizer vaccine, your second dose must also be the Pfizer vaccine.

Do I still need to wear a mask and physical distance after receiving the vaccine?

The answer is **yes**. It will take time after your full vaccination is complete for your body to respond and make enough antibodies to protect you.

Current information also suggests that it is possible that someone who has been vaccinated against COVID-19 may still have a mild or asymptomatic infection or spread the virus to others. Continue wearing masks and practicing physical distancing until it is clear that it is safe to stop.

+6ft

What if I am injured by the vaccine? Will I have to pay my own medical bills?
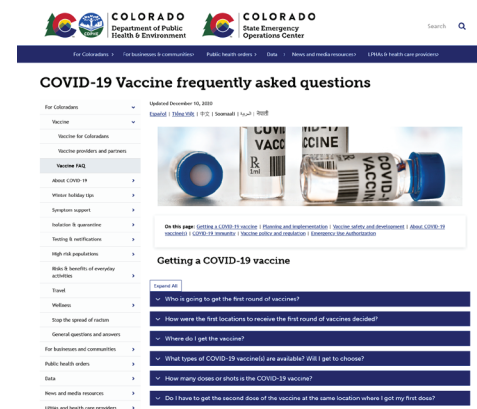
In very rare cases, a vaccine can cause a serious problem, such as a severe allergic reaction. COVID-19 vaccines are covered under the Countermeasure Injury Compensation Program (CICP), not the National Vaccine Injury Compensation Program (VICP). The Public Readiness and Emergency Preparedness Act (PREP Act) authorizes the CICP to provide benefits to certain individuals or estates of individuals who sustain a covered serious physical injury as the direct result of the administration of COVID-19 vaccines.
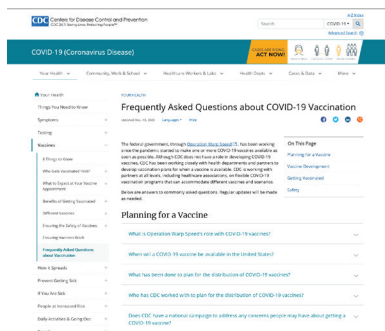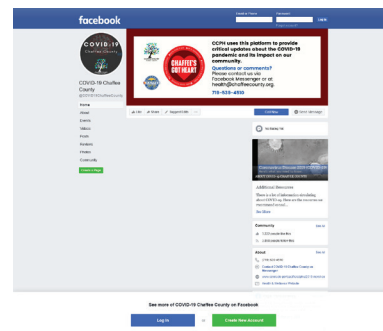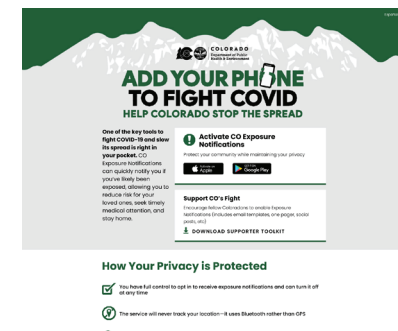
CDPHE's COVID-19 vaccine
https://covid19.colorado.gov/vaccine

CDPHE's FAQs on the COVID-19 vaccine
https://covid19.colorado.gov/vaccine-faq

CDC's FAQs on the COVID-19 vaccine

https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/
vaccines/faq.html

Chaffee County Public Health's COVID Facebook
https://www.facebook.com/
COVID19ChaffeeCounty

Do your part to stop the spread of COVID-19 with CO Exposure Notifications
https://www.addyourphone.com