

Maryland COVID-19 Vaccination Plan



About the Vaccines—For Physicians

There are three vaccines anticipated to be available initially:

Vaccine	Type	How It Works	Dosing	Possible Side Effects
Pfizer / BioNTech	mRNA	Contains genetic material that instructs the immune system to build immunity via T-lymphocytes, B-lymphocytes, and neutralizing antibodies.	Two doses, delivered three weeks apart.	Injection-site pain, fatigue, headaches, chills.
Moderna			Two doses, delivered four weeks apart.	Injection-site pain, fatigue, muscle aches, joint pain, headaches, chills.
AstraZeneca	Vector	Contains a genetically modified version of an adenovirus as a viral vector which prompts the body's immune system to activate T-lymphocytes and antibody-producing B-lymphocytes to attack infected cells and induce immunity.	Two doses, delivered four weeks apart. NOTE: A half-dose may be recommended for the first dose.	Fever, muscle aches, headaches, injection-site pain.

What You Need To Know About The Vaccines

- ◆ People who have recovered from COVID-19 may still benefit from getting vaccinated.
- ◆ COVID-19 vaccines will not alter the body's chemistry or DNA, and they will not cause patients to test positive.
- ◆ Because of limited supply initially, some groups will be recommended to get a COVID-19 vaccine before others. Supply is expected to increase greatly in the future.
- ◆ Vaccinated patients may still transmit COVID-19—but as greater numbers of people are vaccinated, we will achieve “herd immunity” that will greatly reduce cases of serious illness and death from COVID-19.

Key Facts For Your Patients

The vaccines are safe, and they will not give you COVID-19.

The vaccines are effective at preventing you from getting seriously ill with COVID-19.

Mild side effects are normal, including injection-site pain, fatigue, fever, aches, and chills.