

## **COVID-19 Vaccine FAQs**

Update: Jan 28, 2020

1. How do I register for a vaccine in Grand County?
  - a. The Grand County Public Health is maintaining the sign up sheet. Please visit: <https://www.co.grand.co.us/vaccine>
2. When will I be able to receive my vaccine?
  - a. Please visit <https://www.co.grand.co.us/vaccine>
3. Where are the vaccines being administered?
  - a. Vaccines are being provided in Granby at River Run Resort and at the Fairgrounds in Kremmling. Dates and times change based on the supply of vaccines available.
4. Do I need to be a patient of Middle Park Health to receive a vaccine?
  - a. No. Any person eligible for a vaccine can receive one through Middle Park Health.
5. I am not ready to get the COVID-19 vaccine right now, but can I get it at a later time?
  - a. Of course! Currently, supplies are limited and we expect the manufacturer's to increase production as time goes on. MPH will gladly vaccinate you when you're ready as long as we have the vaccine available at that time.
6. What are the concerns with pregnancy/breastfeeding, and the COVID-19 vaccine?
  - a. It is recommended to consult with your OBGYN or PCP to assist you in making that decision.
7. The available COVID-19 vaccines were approved by the FDA under Emergency Use Authorization (EUA), what does this mean?
  - a. Watch this video from the FDA that explains what a EUA is: [What is a EUA?](#)
8. How is the development of the COVID-19 vaccine different than conventional vaccines?
  - a. The COVID-19 vaccines entering the market were developed using mRNA.
  - b. mRNA is a sequence of genetic code that will tell our cells what proteins to build to create an immune response by producing antibodies.
  - c. Our body is then prepared to fight the real virus if we encounter it later on.
  - d. Watch this video to learn about the difference between mRNA vaccines and conventional vaccines: [mRNA Vaccines vs. Conventional Vaccines](#)
9. I have already had COVID-19 and recovered, do I still need to get vaccinated when it's available?
  - a. 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.
  - b. At this time, experts do not know how long someone is protected from getting sick again after recovering from COVID-19. The immunity someone gains from having an infection, called natural immunity, varies from person to person. Some early evidence suggests natural immunity may not last very long.
  - c. We won't know how long immunity produced by vaccination lasts until we have more data on how well it works.
  - d. Both natural immunity and vaccine-induced immunity are important aspects of COVID-19 that experts are trying to learn more about, and CDC will keep the public informed as new evidence becomes available.
  - e. The ACIP recommends waiting at least 90 days after recovering from COVID-19 before getting the vaccine.

- f. Consult with your PCP for further guidance if you already had COVID-19 but would like to be vaccinated.
10. Does immunity after getting COVID-19 last longer than protection from COVID-19 vaccines?
- a. Per the CDC, we won't know how long immunity lasts after being vaccinated for COVID-19 until we have more data on how well the vaccine works.
11. Are the vaccines safe? (need to update this)
- a. Before any vaccine can be approved, it must go through rigorous testing to make sure it is both safe, and effective.
  - b. During clinical trials:
    - i. Pfizer: vaccine was given to about 43,500 people
    - ii. Moderna: vaccine was given to about 30,000 people
12. I have a history of allergic reactions when receiving vaccines, what does that mean for me?
- a. If you have a history of severe allergic reactions (dizziness, difficulty breathing, wheezing, rapid heart rate) to vaccines, please discuss the risks with your PCP first.
  - b. If you receive the COVID-19 vaccine and do have a history of allergic reactions to vaccinations, it is recommended you are monitored for 30 minutes afterward.
  - c. Remember that side effects of the vaccine are not the same as having an allergic reaction to the vaccine.
13. If I have side effects who should I report that to?
- a. We highly encourage you to sign up for v-safe which is a post vaccination health checker where you can report any side effects that you may experience.
  - b. You will be provided a handout with sign-up instructions when you receive your vaccine. You can also sign up here: <https://vsafe.cdc.gov/>
14. What if I don't feel well enough to work after receiving the COVID-19 vaccine?
- a. Contact your employer.
15. Will COVID-19 vaccines cause me to test positive on COVID-19 viral tests?
- a. Vaccines currently in clinical trials in the United States will not cause you to test positive on viral tests, which are used to see if you have a current infection.
  - b. If your body develops an immune response, which is the goal of vaccinations, there is a possibility you may test positive on some antibody tests. Antibody tests indicate you had a previous infection and that you may have some level of protection against the virus.
  - c. Experts are currently looking at how COVID-19 vaccination may affect antibody testing results.
16. What are the common side effects?
- a. Pain and swelling at the injection site.
  - b. Fever, chills, tiredness, headache.
  - c. Symptoms are more pronounced following the second dose.
17. What are the **serious** side effects? (UPDATE please)
- a. Decades of vaccine research demonstrates that most serious side effects generally occur within 6 weeks of administering a vaccine. For the COVID-19 vaccine, the FDA has required clinical trials to provide data from 8 weeks of safety monitoring following the second dose before considering the authorization of a vaccine for public use.
  - b. Because this is a new vaccine, researchers will be learning more about rare side effects, if any, over the next year.
  - c. To identify side effects that happen only very rarely, (e.g., once in 50,000 doses), hundreds of thousands of people need to be vaccinated and followed over time.
18. Helpful tips post vaccination:
- a. To reduce pain or discomfort, apply a cool, clean, wet washcloth over the area.
  - b. Use or exercise your arm

- c. Drink plenty of fluids
19. When to call the doctor post vaccination?
- a. If the redness or tenderness where you got the shot increases after 24 hours.
  - b. If your side effects are worrying or do not seem to be going away after a few days.
20. I have heard of Operation Warp Speed, what is this?
- a. This is a partnership among components of the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) and the Department of Defense to help develop, make, and distribute millions of vaccine doses for COVID-19 as quickly as possible while ensuring that the vaccines are safe and that they work. Watch this video: [Operation Warp Speed](#)
  - b. Learn more about Operation Warp Speed <https://www.hhs.gov/coronavirus/explaining-operation-warp-speed/index.html>
21. How many shots do I receive?
- a. This is dependent upon which manufacturer you receive. For the Moderna vaccine it is a 2 dose vaccine series. The second dose is due 28 days after the first, however you can get your second dose up to 4 days early and up to 6 weeks, or 42 days after the first. Currently, there is not a lot of data regarding vaccine efficacy if the second dose is given after 6 weeks.
  - b. It is very important to receive your second dose on time per the CDPHE, the time frame between doses is determined by the manufacturer to maximize your body's ability to create antibodies.
22. Do I have to get the second dose at the same location where I got my first?
- a. It is strongly recommended that you get both doses from the same vaccine provider.
  - b. Because of limited supply, your vaccine provider (MPH) will need to place the order for your second dose after administering your first dose.
23. Can I receive my second dose from a different manufacturer?
- a. No. The second dose of any COVID-19 vaccine must be the same vaccine product as the first dose.
24. How much will the vaccine cost?
- a. Free!
25. Will I be protected if I only receive the first dose?
- a. It is very important to get both doses of the vaccine so that your body develops enough antibodies to fight the COVID-19 virus if you get infected at a later time.
  - b. Getting more than one dose for a vaccine is not unusual, many routine vaccines require more than one dose for maximum protection such as the Hepatitis B vaccine for example.
26. Will the vaccine have any effect on fertility?
- a. Because this is a new vaccine, researchers will be learning more about rare side effects, if any, over the next year. To identify side effects that happen only very rarely, (e.g., once in 50,000 doses), hundreds of thousands of people need to be vaccinated and followed over time.
27. Do I still need to wear a mask and physical distance after receiving the vaccine?
- a. Yes. It will take time after the vaccination for your body to respond and make enough antibodies to protect you. This could take up to 2 weeks after our last dose.
  - b. Current info 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. So, it is important to continue taking precautions. Continue wearing masks and practicing physical distancing until it is clear that it is safe to stop.
28. Do I need to quarantine (modified quarantine for healthcare workers) from possible exposure if I have received two doses of the vaccine?
- a. It could take up to 1-2 weeks after your last dose of the vaccine to have protection. After that time, because the vaccine has shown high effectiveness, there is hope that most people who have received 2

doses of the vaccine will not be required to quarantine, but we await further guidance from the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP).

29. Do I need to quarantine from possible exposure between doses?
  - a. Yes, you should follow quarantine orders if you have a potential exposure between doses of COVID-19 vaccine.
30. Do I need to isolate if I develop COVID-19-like symptoms more than 1-2 weeks after getting the second dose of the vaccine?
  - a. Yes, if you develop COVID-19 symptoms more than one to 2 weeks after being fully vaccinated, you should notify your employer, isolate at home, and contact your PCP for further instructions on whether to be tested for COVID-19 or other infections from your PCP.

Resources:

<https://covid19.colorado.gov/vaccine-faq>

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/vaccine-benefits/facts.html>

<https://www.co.grand.co.us/COVID19>