



Blue Cross
Blue Shield
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of Michigan

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DO YOUR
PART:

Prepare. Protect. Prevent.

COVID-19 vaccine information for out-of-state members

Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan and Blue Care Network remain committed to helping guide you through the COVID-19 pandemic as the nation works to halt the spread of this disease through a mass vaccination effort.

Blue Cross and BCN members can expect to pay \$0 to receive the COVID-19 vaccine.

About the COVID-19 vaccines

The vaccines that have received FDA emergency use authorization are the **Moderna** vaccine, the **Pfizer/BioNTech** vaccine and the **Johnson & Johnson** vaccine.

Moderna and Pfizer are delivered in two doses, administered a few weeks apart. The Johnson & Johnson vaccine is delivered in one dose.

The Pfizer/BioNTech vaccine requires deep freeze storage, while the Moderna vaccine requires cold storage at higher temperatures. The Johnson & Johnson vaccine can be stored in normal freezers.

All COVID-19 vaccines currently available in the United States have been shown to be highly effective at preventing COVID-19.*

For more information about the vaccines, safety and possible side effects go to [cdc.gov](https://www.cdc.gov) and select *COVID-19 vaccines*.

Here's some information for you or your employees who live outside Michigan on how to get vaccinated when it's time.

- Some registered pharmacies are distributing the vaccine. However, supply is limited so you must check with your local pharmacy for more information on how to sign up. Additional pharmacies, doctors' offices and other providers are planning to administer vaccines to individuals when the supply becomes available to them.
- Check vaccine websites and distribution plans within your own state, which should be available through state or county public health departments. The eligibility policies, vaccine supplies and other vaccine information can vary from state to state. Visit the [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention COVID-19](https://www.cdc.gov) website** to get a direct link to state-specific information.

Common questions about the COVID-19 vaccines

Is the vaccine safe?

Vaccine developers used proven work completed for other vaccines as a starting point in their fight against COVID-19, giving them a head start. Each COVID-19 vaccine approved for use by the FDA followed the same rigorous testing and evaluation as other vaccinations deemed safe. You can ask your physician about the benefits of the vaccine or you can find information about vaccine safety at the following websites:

- Check information from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. You can find it by going to [cdc.gov](https://www.cdc.gov) and selecting *COVID-19 vaccines*.
- Visit the state of Michigan's website, [Michigan.gov/COVIDVaccine](https://www.michigan.gov/COVIDVaccine). (If you are in another state, check the public health site in that state.)

Blue Cross has been monitoring information associated with the development and distribution of the vaccines for COVID-19. We have not found any evidence that receiving the vaccines increase the risk of or causes death.

What are the side effects?

We recommend people check with their physician for questions about *potential* side effects and the benefits of receiving the vaccine. Information about potential side effects has been posted on the website for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention – go to [cdc.gov](https://www.cdc.gov) and select *COVID-19 vaccines*. The state of Michigan's website, [Michigan.gov/COVIDVaccine](https://www.michigan.gov/COVIDVaccine), has information about potential side effects as well. (If people are in another state, they should check the public health site in that state.)

Can people choose which vaccine they get?

Vaccine availability will be based on distribution, available doses, and other factors.

If you are vaccinated, can you still carry the virus and infect people?

This is still under study. According to the CDC, they are still conducting studies around the effect of COVID-19 vaccination on severity of illness from COVID-19, as well as its ability to keep people from spreading the virus that causes COVID-19. If you're vaccinated you should still continue to wear a mask, wash hands, and practice safe social distancing.

If you get the vaccine and then have a COVID test or an antibody test, would the tests show you had COVID?

The vaccines for COVID-19 do not contain the live virus; if a member receives the vaccine and is later given a diagnostic test for COVID-19 they will not test positive as a result of having the vaccination. Because vaccinations condition the body to produce antibodies in response to a viral infection, it is possible for a member to test positive for COVID-19 antibodies after they have received the vaccination.

If I'm planning on having a baby, do the experts recommend vaccination?

People who are trying to become pregnant do not need to avoid pregnancy after mRNA COVID-19 vaccination. Experts believe the vaccines are unlikely to pose a specific risk for people who are pregnant. However, the actual risks of vaccines to the pregnant person and her fetus are unknown because these vaccines have not been studied in pregnant women. None of the approved vaccines contain the live virus that causes COVID-19.

Members with questions about getting vaccinated should have a discussion with their healthcare provider to make an informed decision.

This information can change daily, so we encourage employers and employees to regularly check the [CDC COVID-19](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus) page.

Learn more at bcbsm.com/coronavirus.

[*cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/vaccine-benefits.html](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/vaccine-benefits.html)

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