What to Expect after Getting a COVID-19 Vaccine

The COVID-19 shot may cause side effects in some people. Side effects should go away in a few days.

COMMON SIDE EFFECTS

On the arm where you got the shot:
• Pain
• Redness
• Swelling

In the rest of your body:
• Fever
• Chills
• Tiredness
• Headache
• Muscle pain
• Nausea

Ask your healthcare provider for help if:
• The redness or pain where you got the shot gets worse after 24 hours
• Your side effects are worrying you
• Your side effects do not seem to be going away after a few days

HELPFUL TIPS

If you have pain, headache, or fever, ask a healthcare provider (or facility staff) if you can have medicine.

If you are sore where you got the shot:
• Apply a clean, cool, wet washcloth over the area
• Use or move your arm gently

If you have a fever:
• Drink a lot of water
• Get plenty of rest
• Dress lightly

REMEMBER

Side effects may make you feel a little sick or even make it hard to do daily activities, but they should go away in a few days.

Some COVID-19 vaccines need 2 shots to work. You should get the second shot even if you have side effects after the first shot, unless a doctor tells you not to.

COVID-19 vaccines may not fully protect you until a week or two after your final shot. It takes time for your body to build protection after any vaccination.