I just got the COVID-19 vaccine, now what ?

Until a lot of people get the vaccine, we need to **keep taking steps** to protect ourselves and others. Even after vaccination, continue to **wear a mask** (indoors and outdoors when around others), stay at least **6 feet away** from others, **avoid crowds**, and **wash your hands** often.

Make a Plan to Get Your Second Dose of Vaccine

- With available COVID-19 vaccines, you need **2 doses** to get the most protection.
- If you've received your first dose, make a plan to get your second dose of the same vaccine brand **3 or 4 weeks after** the first dose.
- The timing depends on **which vaccine** you were given.
- Find out if the place where you got the first dose will send you **a reminder** for the second dose. If not, **make a note** on paper or in an electronic calendar.
- If you have mild side effects after the vaccine, such as fever, body aches, or headache, it is **still safe to get the second dose** unless your healthcare provider says you should not.

Report Vaccine Side Effects

- Side effects are signs your body is **working to build protection** against COVID-19. They should go away after a few days.
- You can sign up for a free, secure smartphone tool from CDC at **vsafe.cdc.gov** to get information and tell CDC about any side effects.
- If your side effects are not going away or you are worried, **call your healthcare provider**.

For more information about how vaccines work, visit **vdh.virginia.gov/covid-19-vaccine** or call 877-ASK-VDH3.

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