

COVID-19 Vaccine Frequently Asked Questions

Updated February 4, 2021

Making an Appointment

Madison County Health Department makes appointments for all vaccine administration. We feel it works best to schedule appointments that way we can match the number of recipients with the number of vaccines. Please note, that vaccines are shipped to us weekly and if we do not receive them, we would be forced to reschedule your appointment.

If you are scheduled for a COVID-19 vaccine, please do not take another vaccine (flu, shingles, etc.) in the two weeks prior to your appointment.

How do I get an appointment? Phone or online?

The Madison County Health Department has a COVID vaccine waitlist for adults 65 and older and all health care workers. This waitlist will be the method used to make appointments for the Health Department's vaccination clinics. You can be added to the waitlist by calling 1-828-649-0755 or by filling out the online form at <https://bit.ly/MadCoVaccine>

How will I be notified when it is my time for an appointment?

You will be called. If you were unable to be reached, we will try again the next time appointments are available.

Are appointments made for both doses or just one at a time?

Before individuals can make their first appointment, they must confirm that they are able to make the second date. The second dose appointment will be exactly 4 weeks from the first dose typically at the same time.

I am on the waitlist. Why haven't I been contacted yet?

Please know demand is incredibly high while supplies are low, so you may not be contacted immediately. Please do not sign up for the waitlist more than once or contact the Health Department for a status update. Everyone on the waitlist will be contacted when their turn comes.

Vaccine Clinics

Is the vaccine free?

Yes. There is no cost for anyone to receive a vaccination. If you have insurance, the insurance company will be billed to help cover the administrative costs, but the patient will not be charged.

What should I wear for the vaccination?

The injection goes into the upper arm so sleeves will need to be easily rolled up. Please consider wearing a short-sleeve undershirt if you plan to wear long sleeves.

Do I have to be a Madison County or North Carolina resident?

Local health departments may restrict administering vaccinations to persons who do not live, work, or spend significant time in the state of NC.

General Vaccine Questions

Is the vaccine safe?

Yes. Two vaccines from Pfizer-BioNTech and Moderna have proven to prevent COVID-19 illness with no safety concerns in the clinical trials. They are 95% effective.

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) makes sure all food and drugs are safe. The COVID-19 vaccines must pass clinical trials like other drugs and vaccines. The FDA checks the work and authorizes vaccines only if they are safe and effective. Because vaccines are given to millions of healthy people to prevent serious diseases, they are held to very high safety standards.

Find out more about the vaccine at [What to Expect at Your Appointment to Get Vaccinated for COVID-19 | CDC](#) and [Frequently Asked Questions about COVID-19 Vaccination | CDC](#)

How often does Madison County receive a shipment of vaccines?

We receive allotments from the state on a week-to-week basis.

Do older folks have priority?

Healthcare workers, residents/staff of long-term care facilities and anyone 65 and older regardless of health condition are now eligible to receive a vaccination.

How does Madison County ensure the vaccines do not spoil?

Vaccines are refrigerated to the manufacturer's recommendations. The Health Department is currently receiving the Moderna vaccine, which does not require the ultra-low temperature requirements of the Pfizer vaccine.

Can I be assured that the second required vaccine will be available to me?

The state sends providers separate allotments to be used for second doses. It is very important that people receive both doses to achieve full efficacy.

Can I get vaccinated even if I have already had COVID?

Yes. Due to the severe health risks associated with COVID-19 and the fact that re-infection with COVID-19 is possible, vaccine should be offered to you regardless of whether you already had COVID-19 infection.

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.

We will not know how long immunity produced by vaccination lasts until we have more data on how well the vaccines work.

Can I get the vaccine at the drug store or my doctor's office?

At this time distribution is limited to healthcare providers due to limited supply. We expect primary care providers and the private sector to begin offering vaccinations in the coming months as vaccine supply becomes more plentiful.

Which vaccine we are using?

The Health Department is currently administering the Moderna vaccine.

When will we get to the next phase?

Madison County is moving through the phases recommended by NC DHHS and the CDC at the pace with which we have vaccines available.

Which group am I in to receive the vaccine?

General information about vaccine groups can be found at: [Vaccines: NC DHHS COVID-19](#) and [Find My Vaccine Group \(nc.gov\)](#)

For more information about the COVID-19 vaccine, please see the Frequently Asked Questions website from the N.C. Department of Health and Human Services: <https://covid19.ncdhhs.gov/vaccines/frequently-asked-questions>