What to expect after getting a COVID-19 vaccine

What should I do right after receiving the vaccine?
Wait for **5-15 minutes** to ensure you are feeling well.
You may be asked to wait for **30 minutes** if there is a concern about a possible vaccine allergy.

Tell clinic staff if you are feeling unwell or if any of these symptoms develop:

- Hives (bumps on skin that are itchy)
- Difficulty breathing
- Swelling of your face, tongue or throat
- Dizziness

What symptoms are normal after vaccination?

**On the arm where you got the vaccine:**
- Pain, redness, or swelling

Note: Delayed pain, redness, and swelling can occur many days following vaccination. It is usually not serious and will clear up on its own.

**Throughout the rest of your body:**
- Fever
- Chills
- Tiredness
- Headache
- Muscle/joint pain

When to call your doctor

Allergic reactions to the vaccine and other serious side effects are rare. However, symptoms may occur within a week after receiving the vaccine. Contact your doctor if you develop any of the symptoms below. If your symptoms are severe, call 911.

- Hives or itchy skin
- Swelling of the face or mouth
- Trouble breathing or wheezing
- Serious drowsiness
- High fever (over 40°C)
- Convulsions or seizures
- Muscle weakness/loss of feeling in the face
- Chest pain, shortness of breath or excessive sweating
- Feeling of a fast, pounding or fluttering heartbeat
- Other serious symptoms (for example, “pins and needles” or numbness)
Things to remember after you receive the vaccine

Continue to follow public health measures to prevent the spread of COVID-19.

- Wear a well-fitted medical mask, non-fit tested respirator (N95s/KN95s) or a 3 layer cloth mask that fully covers your mouth, nose and chin
- Stay at least 2 metres (6 feet) away from others
- Wash hands often
- Self-isolate when sick
- Cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue or sleeve
- Get tested if eligible when you have symptoms

For children 5-11 years of age:

It is recommended that children 5-11 years of age wait at least 14 days between getting the COVID-19 vaccine and another vaccine.

Get your COVID-19 vaccine!

Completing a full series of the COVID-19 vaccine provides strong protection against severe illness, hospitalization and death from COVID-19 infection. The timing between doses depends on which vaccine you received and direction from public health. Protect yourself by getting all recommended doses of the COVID-19 vaccine.

More Information

For more information about COVID-19 vaccines, visit halton.ca/COVIDvaccines.