

**People with disabilities in IRIS are at higher risk for getting sick from COVID-19. It is important that IRIS participants, their families, and their support staff get the COVID-19 vaccine when it is available to them so that everyone is protected.**



### WHEN CAN MY CAREGIVERS GET THE VACCINE:

■ **Frontline health care workers are eligible to get the vaccine now. That means people who provide direct supports like:**

- Personal care assistants.
- Home health worker.
- Paid and unpaid caregivers, including family members of IRIS participants.
- Adult day service providers.
- Staff in long-term care facilities including 1-2 bed Adult Family Homes, Group Homes, and Supported Living Providers.
- Behavior health providers like therapists and counselors.
- Therapy services like physical therapy, occupational therapy, speech therapy.
- Transportation providers taking IRIS participants to Medicaid approved services.



### WHEN CAN I GET THE VACCINE:

- You are eligible to get the vaccine now if you live in a group home.
- You are eligible to get the vaccine now if you are 65 years old or older.
- **Participants in IRIS may start getting their vaccine around March 1. Not everyone who wants a vaccine will be able to get it right away.**

### WHERE CAN I GET THE VACCINE:

If you live in a group home or are 65 years old or older, you might get contacted by your doctor or local public health department to schedule your vaccine.

Every county is doing COVID-19 vaccination in different ways. Watch websites (like your local public health department, pharmacies, or hospitals), local news, and even social media to find out where and when the vaccine might be available near you!

### MORE INFORMATION ON WHERE TO GET THE VACCINE

**Remember, Wisconsin does not have enough COVID-19 vaccine to give everyone who is eligible a vaccine right away.**

People will be getting the vaccine at their doctor's office or clinic, pharmacies, local health departments, at their jobs, and at large vaccination sites. Every county is doing the COVID-19 vaccination in different ways. Watch websites (like your Local and Tribal Health Department, pharmacies, or hospitals), local news, and social media to find out where and when the vaccine might be available near you and your caregivers.

**More details on the COVID-19 vaccine groups can be found here: <https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/covid-19/vaccine-about.htm>**

# Frequently Asked Questions about the COVID-19 Vaccine



## Should I get a vaccine?

Getting the vaccine can help keep you from getting sick with COVID-19. The vaccine is two shots which use mRNA to teach your body how to fight the virus so you won't get sick if the virus gets inside of you. After a lot of people get the vaccine, we can go back to our activities and start seeing people again.

## Is the vaccine safe?

The vaccine was tested with many thousands of people to make sure it is safe. These people were different ages and races and they had different health problems. Most people did not have any serious reactions to the vaccine. When someone gets the vaccine, they wait for 15 minutes with the person who gave it to them to make sure they do not have any bad reactions.

## Do I need to get both shots for the vaccine to work?

Yes. The vaccine is given in two shots. People need to get both shots for the vaccine to work. The first shot helps the body build the protection against the virus. The second shot gives the body the full ability to fight the virus.

## Who will pay for my COVID-19 vaccine?

The vaccine is free because the government is paying for the vaccine.

## Should I get the vaccine if I already had COVID-19?

Talk to a doctor about this. People who have had the virus can get sick again. The doctor may suggest you wait depending on when you had COVID-19.



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## Will I still need to wear a mask, social distance, and wash their hands after getting the vaccine?

Yes. It is important for everyone, even those who got the vaccine, to do these things until doctors learn more about the COVID-19 vaccine. Continuing to wear a mask, social distance and wash hands will continue to protect everyone not only from COVID-19 but also other viruses like the flu.

## How can I get transportation to get my vaccine?

IRIS participants without their own transportation can schedule through non-emergency medical transportation (NEMT). If that transportation is unavailable, participants can use their IRIS budget. If you have questions about using your IRIS budget, contact your IRIS consultant.

## What proof is needed for my caregiver to get the vaccine?

Your caregiver does not need proof to be able to get the vaccine. Some places giving the vaccine are asking for proof that the person getting the vaccine is approved by the state to get it. If the place giving the vaccine asks for proof, your caregiver can show them this website that lists who is approved:

<https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/covid-19/vaccine-about.htm>

## Who can help me if I have questions?

Remember, every county is doing the COVID-19 vaccination in different ways. Checking the websites of your Local and Tribal Health Department, pharmacies, or hospitals can help you stay informed about what is happening in your area. You can also find more resources at:

<https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/covid-19/vaccinefaq.htm>

You can also talk to your IRIS consultant. Your IRIS consultant might have resources about COVID-19 and the vaccine they can share with you.