

COVID-19 Vaccines: Common and Serious Side Effects

With more than half of the total U.S population fully vaccinated against COVID-19, the COVID-19 vaccines have been proven safe and effective in the real world. Reports of serious side effects following vaccination are very rare and the benefit of getting the vaccine outweighs the risk of any side effects.

Common Side Effects

COVID-19 vaccination will help protect you from getting COVID-19. You may have some side effects, which are common with all vaccines. These side effects are usually mild and will go away in a few days. Some people have no side effects.



On the arm where you got the shot:

- Pain
- Redness
- Swelling



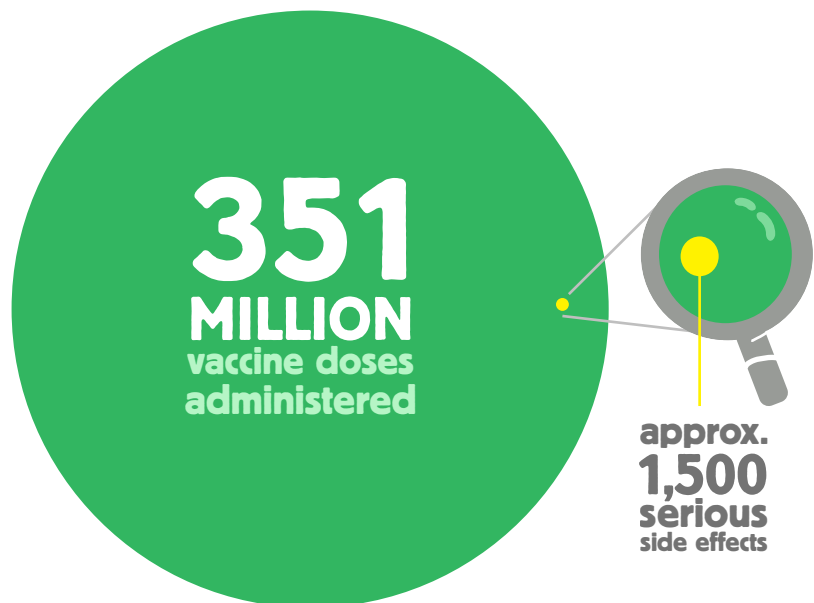
In the rest of your body:

- Tiredness
- Headache
- Chills
- Fever
- Nausea

Potential Serious Side Effects

Serious side effects are very rare following any vaccination, including COVID-19 vaccination.

From the 351 million COVID-19 vaccine doses administered in the U.S. through Aug. 9, 2021, approximately 1,500 people experienced serious side effects.



[See the Potential Serious Side Effects »](#)



American Red Cross is a health-focused relief and development organization that responds to people affected by poverty or disaster with life-changing health programs, medicine, medical supplies and emergency aid.

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Allergic Reactions

Severe allergic reactions occurred in 2-5 people per every million people vaccinated in U.S.

If patients have a severe allergic reaction—also known as anaphylaxis—after getting the first shot of a COVID-19 vaccine, CDC recommends that they not get a second shot of that vaccine.

Potential Serious Side Effects by Vaccine

Johnson and Johnson

Rare Side Effect	Onset	What are the symptoms?	Who is most affected?	How common is it?
Thrombosis with thrombocytopenia syndrome (TTS) (Blood Clots)	3-15 days	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Severe headache or blurred vision Shortness of breath Chest pain Leg swelling Gut pain that does not go away Easy bruising or tiny blood spots under the skin 	Women under 50	10.6 cases per 1 million vaccinated women between 30-39 years old; 9 cases per 1 million vaccinated women between 40-49 years old
Guillain-Barre Syndrome (GBS) (Nerve Inflammation)	2 weeks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Weakness or tingling, especially in your arms or legs, that are persistent, getting worse and spreading Problems walking, speaking, chewing or swallowing Loss of bladder or bowel control, or Persistent double vision or an inability to move your eyes 	Men over 50	167 unconfirmed reports out of 14 million doses

Pfizer and Moderna

Rare Side Effect	Onset	What are the symptoms?	Who is most affected?	How common is it?
Myocarditis and Pericarditis (Heart Inflammation)	2-30 days, more common after second dose	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chest pain Shortness of breath Feelings of having a fast-beating, fluttering, or pounding heart 	Higher risk in males under 40, highest risk for males 12-17 years old	5 cases per 1 million vaccinated individuals
Thrombosis with thrombocytopenia syndrome (TTS) (Blood Clots)	4 to 42 days	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Severe headache or blurred vision Shortness of breath Chest pain Leg swelling Gut pain that does not go away Easy bruising or tiny blood spots under the skin 	Women under 50	2 confirmed reports (Moderna) out of 157 million fully vaccinated individuals