What to Expect after Getting a COVID-19 Vaccine

The COVID-19 shot may cause side effects in some people. Side effects should go away in a few days.

COMMON SIDE EFFECTS

On the arm where you got the shot:  
• Pain  
• Redness  
• Swelling

In the rest of your body:  
• Fever  
• Chills  
• Tiredness  
• Headache  
• Muscle pain  
• Nausea

Ask the facility healthcare provider (or facility staff) for help if:
• The redness or pain where you got the shot gets worse after 24 hours  
• Your side effects are worrying you  
• Your side effects do not seem to be going away after a few days

HELPFUL TIPS

If you have pain, headache, or fever, ask a healthcare provider (or facility staff) if you can have medicine.

If you are sore where you got the shot:
• Apply a clean, cool, wet washcloth over the area  
• Use or move your arm gently

If you have a fever:
• Drink a lot of water  
• Get plenty of rest  
• Dress lightly

REMEMBER

Side effects may make you feel a little sick or even make it hard to do daily activities, but they should go away in a few days.  
Increase COVID-19 vaccination rates and ensure that staff and residents stay up to date on their COVID-19 vaccines.  
COVID-19 vaccines may not fully protect you until a week or two after your final shot. It takes time for your body to build protection after any vaccination.

Even after your COVID-19 vaccination, when you are in a correctional facility, it’s important to continue wearing a well-fitting mask, try to stay at least 6 feet away from others as much as possible, and wash your hands often.