



TRICARE Communications

COVID-19 Vaccine

Key Messages



TRICARE Communications: COVID-19 Vaccine Key Messages

1. Department of Defense (DoD) is following the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) priority guidelines for COVID-19 vaccine distribution.
2. TRICARE beneficiaries should reach out to their [local military hospital or clinic](#), retail pharmacies, or local or [state vaccine distribution](#) sites to find out when and how the vaccine will be made available [based on the phased distribution plan](#).
3. Adults ages 75 and older have been moved to Phase 1b of the U.S. COVID-19 Vaccination Program. Previously, adults ages 75 and older were part of Phase 1c. The DoD will accommodate all beneficiaries on the CDC priority list.
 - a. Phase 1a includes health care, emergency, and safety personnel.
 - b. Phase 1b includes essential workers and adults ages 75 and older.
 - c. Phase 1c includes adults ages 65-74 and adults ages 16-64 with certain pre-existing medical conditions.

4. There are currently three vaccines authorized in the United States to prevent COVID-19. Two vaccines each require two doses to be fully effective, and the third requires a single dose. Beneficiaries should get their second shot as close to the recommended 3-week or 4-week interval as possible, as instructed by a health care provider
 - a. For vaccines requiring two doses, beneficiaries should confirm they receive the same vaccine for both shots. This is because the COVID-19 vaccines are not compatible with each other.
 - b. Beneficiaries need to bring their COVID-19 vaccination record card to their second dose appointment for verification. Beneficiaries are strongly encouraged to make a backup copy their COVID-19 vaccination record card for reference.
5. There is no cost to receive the COVID-19 vaccine at a network or non-network retail pharmacy. But, if a beneficiary goes to a civilian provider, there may be a cost for an office visit based on their plan.
6. Once the COVID-19 vaccination process is completed, beneficiaries should submit documentation to their provider so it can be added to their health record.
7. Beneficiaries are encouraged to stay connected to their [local military hospital or clinic's](#) social media site, retail pharmacies, local or [state vaccine distribution](#) websites, and community news for the most up-to-date information about vaccine availability in their area.

Additional Resources:

- To learn about the DoD's distribution plan, including the populations included in each phase and tier, visit: www.defense.gov/Explore/Spotlight/Coronavirus/Vaccine-Availability/
- For more information on the COVID-19 vaccine, as well as a list of commonly asked questions, visit: www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/index.html
- To learn more about local and state vaccine distribution plan, visit: www.usa.gov/state-health
- For local military hospital or clinic contact information, visit: www.tricare.mil/mtf
- For updates about which local pharmacies have vaccine availability, visit: www.cdc.gov/vaccines/covid-19/retail-pharmacy-program