

COVID-19 VACCINES: WHAT IS NEXT

Where can I get a COVID-19 vaccine?

A great place to check is with your doctor's office (now and upon commercialization). Check your local pharmacy or visit [vaccines.gov](https://www.vaccines.gov) to see where vaccines are being offered near you.

What does commercialization of COVID-19 vaccines mean?

Commercialization means COVID-19 vaccines are no longer supplied to the public by the U.S. government. They will be available from the manufacturers directly to healthcare providers/organizations.

When is commercialization of COVID-19 vaccines happening?

Anticipated for mid to late September 2023.

Is there another COVID-19 vaccine coming?

In the fall of 2023, there will be a COVID-19 vaccine that targets the strain (or variant) of the virus that is spreading in the U.S.. This is the XBB.1.5 strain. This is good news because COVID-19 is still making people sick and still causing people to go into hospitals. If you are not vaccinated, don't wait for the fall vaccine to become available!

How much will COVID-19 vaccines cost after the U.S. Government program ends?

- Uninsured and under insured children will be able to get COVID-19 vaccines for free through the Vaccines for Children (VFC) program.
- Uninsured adults or those who have insurance through a federal program will likely be able to get COVID-19 vaccines for free.
- Private insurance plans will likely cover the cost of COVID-19 vaccines and/or people covered by these plans may have to pay a small cost, similar to what they have to pay for other vaccines.

Does commercialization mean COVID-19 is over?

No. COVID-19 is not gone or done spreading. There is no "level of disease" that defines a pandemic or emergency.

That said, we may be on our way to a time when we see COVID-19 cases increase only during certain times of the year, like we usually do with flu and other respiratory illnesses. This could and probably will take years to happen. People can and will continue to get sick, be hospitalized, and die from COVID-19, especially those 65 years old and those who are immunocompromised. This is why it's important to make sure you continue to be vaccinated.

Are COVID-19 at home test kits and testing still free?

It depends. Here is what we understand: People with Medicare can be tested for COVID-19 for free. People with Medicaid or CHIP can be tested for COVID-19 for free, at home COVID-19 tests and related services will also be free until early in 2024. At home tests are no longer free for people with private insurance or Medicare.

