The COVID-19 vaccine helps protect you from COVID-19 illness. You may experience mild side effects after receiving it. This is normal and indicates the vaccine is helping your body build immunity against COVID-19.

**Side Effects That May Occur**

You might experience some side effects after receiving the vaccine that last a day or two, including:

- Chills
- Diarrhea
- Fatigue
- Fever
- Headache
- Muscle and/or joint pain
- Redness, swelling and/or pain at the injection site
- Vomiting

Cough, shortness of breath, new loss of taste or smell, sore throat, congestion or runny nose are not expected symptoms of the vaccine. Testing for COVID-19 is recommended even if these symptoms arise within 48 hours of the vaccine.

**REPORTING SIDE EFFECTS AFTER RECEIVING THE COVID-19 VACCINE**

If you experience any persistent or moderate to severe side effects after receiving a COVID-19 vaccine, please contact your primary health care provider.

In addition, please report these side effects to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, or CDC.

Visit cdc.gov/vsafe or scan the QR Code below using your smartphone to learn more.

**When to Call Your Primary Health Care Provider**

Immediate vaccine reactions will be managed at the vaccination site.

Please call your primary health care provider:

- If redness or tenderness where you got your shot increases after 24 hours.
- You are worried about the side effects you are experiencing or they last more than a few days.

**Important Information to Remember**

- You may experience side effects similar to a flu-like illness, but these should go away in a day or two.
- Most of the COVID-19 vaccines under development require two doses to be effective. You should get the second dose when scheduled, even if you had mild side effects following the first one, unless your health care provider advises you not to get the second vaccine.
- Please keep in mind that it usually takes one to two weeks after you receive the recommended number of vaccine doses to develop immunity.
- It is important to continue practicing the healthy behaviors we have in place during the pandemic to prevent the spread of COVID-19 — wear a mask, practice physical distancing, wash your hands often and avoid gatherings.

Learn more at Coronavirus.UFHealth.org