

A photograph of a family of five—two adults and three children—smiling and huddled together outdoors. The image is partially overlaid with a large blue triangle on the left side.

# COVID-19: What we now know

The virus is changing, so this season's updated COVID-19 shots have been designed to help protect against recent variants<sup>1,2</sup>

 **Pfizer** / BIONTECH

# Is COVID-19 over?

Since the pandemic began, we've seen COVID-19-associated hospitalizations rise and fall, but COVID-19 has never gone away.<sup>3</sup>

COVID-19 is an illness caused by the SARS-CoV-2 virus. The virus continues to evolve and change.<sup>1</sup> COVID-19 can affect anyone and cause symptoms that can range from mild to very severe. Some people are more likely than others to get very sick with COVID-19, which can lead to severe illness, hospitalization, and death.<sup>4,5</sup>

Symptoms of COVID-19 may appear 2 to 14 days after exposure to the virus and can include<sup>4,5\*</sup>

- 
- Fever or chills
  - Cough
  - Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
  - Fatigue
  - Muscle or body aches
  - Headache
  - New loss of taste or smell
  - Sore throat
  - Congestion or runny nose
  - Nausea or vomiting
  - Diarrhea

\*This list does not include all possible symptoms.

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COVID-19 can also result in a post-COVID condition known as Long COVID.<sup>6</sup>

[Click here](#) to learn more about possible COVID-19 symptoms

**COVID-19 continues to be a major cause of severe illness and hospitalization.<sup>7</sup>**

**601,963** COVID-19-associated hospitalizations reported in the US for all ages January 1, 2023 to September 16, 2023, according to the CDC.<sup>7†</sup>

<sup>†</sup>Based on total number of new admissions as reported by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Data Tracker.

**% of COVID-19-associated hospitalizations by age<sup>8‡</sup>**

17 years and younger	18 to 49	50 to 64	65+
3.2%	25.4%	24.2%	47.2%

<sup>‡</sup>As reported by COVID-NET, a population-based surveillance system in 14 states. The network represents approx. 10% of the US population. COVID-NET hospitalization data are preliminary and subject to change.<sup>9</sup>

**50,457** COVID-19-associated deaths reported in the US for all ages January 1, 2023 to September 16, 2023, according to the CDC.<sup>10§</sup>

<sup>§</sup>Provisional COVID-19 deaths are reported by the National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS) using incoming data from death certificates, which are not final and are subject to change.<sup>11</sup>

**45% of people aged 18-49 who died were immunocompromised.<sup>12||</sup>**

<sup>||</sup>IVY Network September 1, 2022 through June 30, 2023. Percentage of patients with underlying conditions among COVID-19-associated deaths by age.

**Most COVID-19-associated deaths occurred in people ages 65 years and older.<sup>13¶</sup>**

<sup>¶</sup>As reported by the NCHS. Provisional death counts for COVID-19. United States, 2020-2023.

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# People with certain risk factors are more likely to get very sick with COVID-19<sup>14</sup>

~75% of American adults have at least one risk factor.<sup>15</sup>


According to the CDC, they include people who<sup>14\*</sup>

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Are 50 or older              | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Have heart conditions         |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Are overweight               | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Have chronic lung conditions  |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Are a current or past smoker | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Have chronic kidney disease   |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Have diabetes                | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Have a weakened immune system |

\*This list does not include all risk factors that increase the risk of getting very sick with COVID-19 and is not in order of degree or severity.<sup>7</sup>

According to the CDC, the more risk factors you have, the higher the likelihood of getting very sick with COVID-19.<sup>5</sup>

[Click here](#) for CDC info about risk factors that can increase the risk of serious illness from COVID-19



## Factors Affecting Health Equity

Some people have a greater chance of getting very sick or even dying from COVID-19 because of where they live or work, or because they can't easily access health care. This includes many people from different racial and ethnic backgrounds and those with disabilities.<sup>16,17</sup>

- ▶ Getting this season's COVID-19 shot is an important step to help protect yourself.<sup>18</sup> Find an appointment for a vaccine option by Pfizer & BioNTech at [ScheduleCovidVax.com](https://www.schedulecovidvax.com)

According to the National Center for Health Statistics Household Pulse Survey for ages 18+

# It is estimated 10% of adults who have had COVID-19 experienced Long COVID<sup>19\*</sup>

(As per the survey, conducted between July 26 and August 6, 2023.)

Although Long COVID occurs more often in people who had severe COVID-19 illness, anyone who has been infected with the SARS-CoV-2 virus can experience it.<sup>6</sup>

Some people who get sick with COVID-19 can develop Long COVID, which may last weeks, months, or years after a COVID-19 infection and can include a wide range of symptoms<sup>6†</sup>:

- **General symptoms** such as fever, tiredness, or fatigue that interfere with daily life
- **Respiratory and heart symptoms** such as difficulty breathing, shortness of breath, cough, or chest pain
- **Neurological symptoms** such as difficulty thinking or concentrating, headache, sleep problems, or lightheadedness
- **Digestive symptoms** such as diarrhea or stomach pain

\*The US Census Bureau, in collaboration with multiple federal agencies, launched the Household Pulse Survey to produce data on the social and economic impacts of COVID-19 on American households. Errors can occur for surveys that are implemented quickly, achieve low response rates, and rely on online response.<sup>6</sup>

†This list does not include all the possible symptoms of Long COVID.<sup>6</sup>

**[Click here](#) to learn more about Long COVID on the CDC website**

# Don't wait.

## Ask your healthcare provider about getting this season's updated COVID-19 shot.

You can also get an updated COVID-19 shot at the same visit as a flu shot if you're due for both, as recommended by the CDC.<sup>20</sup> Talk to your healthcare provider if this is an option.

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**Most should continue to pay nothing out-of-pocket for COVID-19 vaccines.\***

\*Uninsured/underinsured adults can receive at no cost at participating locations. CDC's Bridge Access Program. CDC Website (7/13/23). Visit [vaccines.gov](https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines.gov) to find a location.

**Click it. Schedule it.**

**Schedule a vaccine option by Pfizer & BioNTech at [ScheduleCovidVax.com](https://www.schedulecovidvax.com)**

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