

COVID-19 Vaccine + Allergy Concerns

UVA Department of Student Health and Wellness

When should I see an allergist about COVID-19 vaccine concerns?

Definitely meet with an allergist before getting vaccinated if you've experienced any of the following:

- Severe allergic reaction (e.g., anaphylaxis) after a previous dose or to a component of the COVID-19 vaccine
- Immediate allergic reaction (within 4 hours) of any severity to a previous dose or known (diagnosed) allergy to a component (PEG or polysorbate) of the vaccine

Consider meeting with an allergist before getting vaccinated if you have:

- a history of an immediate allergic reaction to any other vaccine or injectable therapy (i.e., intramuscular, intravenous, or subcutaneous vaccines or therapies BUT excluding subcutaneous immunotherapy for allergies, such as "allergy shots") as a precaution but *not* a reason to avoid COVID-19 vaccination.
- It's important to note that minor reactions (i.e. soreness, redness, light swelling) at the vaccine injection site is to be expected.

If I have other allergies, should I be concerned about getting vaccinated?

Individuals with oral medication, food, inhalant, insect, latex allergy are **NOT** currently known to be any more likely than the general public to experience allergic reaction to the COVID-19 vaccine. If you have been prescribed an epinephrine autoinjector, it would be a good idea to carry it with you on the day of your vaccination out of an abundance of caution. It is important to note that the COVID-19 vaccine is **NOT** live and can be administered to immunocompromised individuals.

Is there UVA support if I'm concerned about an allergic reaction to the COVID-19 vaccine?

Yes! If you need to see an allergist based on the above information, contact Medical Services (434-924-5362) at Student Health and Wellness (SHW) for a referral to the UVA Allergy Clinic. If you do not need to see an allergist, but would like to take extra precautions when receiving your COVID-19 vaccine, **schedule a vaccine appointment at UVA Health for any Friday from 1pm - 3pm. UVA Health allergists will be on-site and ready to assist you if any issues arise. To schedule an appointment, visit uvahealth.com/services/covid19 and follow the instructions under "Get Vaccinated."** If you're not sure what to do and would like more information, please contact Medical Services at SHW.

CDC RECOMMENDS THE FOLLOWING OBSERVATION PERIODS AFTER COVID-19 VACCINATION

A 30-minute observation period if you have:

- History of an immediate allergic reaction of any severity to a vaccine or injectable therapy
- A restriction from receiving a different type of COVID-19 vaccine (for example, people restricted from receiving mRNA COVID-19 vaccines and receive the Janssen viral vector vaccine instead.)
- History of anaphylaxis due to any cause

If none of the above applies to you, a 15-minute observation period is recommended.



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