

# What to Expect after COVID-19 Vaccination: Common Side Effects

Common Side Effects after receiving your COVID-19 Vaccine according to the CDC

**Q:** What common side effects should I expect after receiving the COVID-19 Vaccine?

**A:** You may experience side effects after your COVID-19 Vaccination. These are normal signs that your body is building protection after receiving the vaccine. Most common, mild, side effects include:

- ❖ Pain, redness, and swelling at the injection site
- ❖ Tiredness
- ❖ Headache
- ❖ Muscle Pain
- ❖ Chills
- ❖ Fever
- ❖ Nausea

**Q:** How long should I expect side effects to last?

**A:** Generally, these mild side effects last 1-2 days following your vaccination.

**Q:** What should I do for these side effects?

**A:** To reduce pain & discomfort where you got the injection: apply a clean, cool, wet washcloth over the area. Also, use or exercise your arm. To reduce discomfort from fever: drink plenty of fluids & dress lightly. Talk to your doctor about taking over-the-counter medicine, such as ibuprofen, acetaminophen, aspirin, or antihistamines, for any pain and discomfort you may experience after receiving your vaccine.

**Q:** Should I expect side effects to be worse after my second dose of the COVID-19 Vaccine?

**A:** Side effects after your second shot may be more intense than the ones experienced after your first shot. These side effects are normal signs that your body is continuing to build immunity and should go away within a few days.

**Q:** When should I call the doctor?

**A:** In most cases, discomfort from pain or fever is a normal sign your body is building protection. Contact your doctor or healthcare provider if:

- ❖ The spot where you received your vaccine becomes more red, hot, hard, or more painful
- ❖ Your side effects are worrying you or do not seem to be going away after a few days

**Remember: These common side effects can affect your ability to do daily activities, but should go away in a few days.**