

People with disabilities in IRIS are at higher risk for getting sick from COVID-19. It is important that IRIS participants, their families, and their support staff get the COVID-19 vaccine when it is available to them so that everyone is protected.



WHEN CAN MY CAREGIVERS AND I GET THE VACCINE:

- You are eligible now to get the vaccine if you are in IRIS.
- Your paid and un-paid caregivers, including your family members who support you, can also get the vaccine.
 - When you schedule your appointment, try to also get an appointment for your caregiver. You could go together with your caregiver to get the vaccine.

WHO CAN HELP ME SET UP AN APPOINTMENT FOR THE VACCINE:

- First, ask a family member, supported decision maker, friend, caregiver or guardian to help you.
- If you still need help setting up an appointment, your IRIS consultant may be able to help.
- Wisconsin has started a new vaccine call center. You can call **1-(844) 684-1064** for help and to ask medical questions related to the vaccine.

WHAT SHOULD I BRING WITH ME TO MY VACCINE APPOINTMENT:

- Confirmation of your appointment.
- Your insurance card.
- A driver's license or a state ID.
- If you don't have an ID, bring something with your name on it like:
 - The letter you received from DHS saying you are in a long-term care program.
 - Your IRIS plan.
 - Mail or a pay stub with your name and address.
 - A library card, bus pass, or membership card.

WHERE CAN MY CAREGIVERS AND I GET THE VACCINE :

- Right now, some pharmacies have available appointments for people in IRIS and their caregivers. For Walgreens, Pick 'n Save, and Metro Market, here is how you sign up:

How to schedule ONLINE through Walgreens:

- Visit the website: <https://www.walgreens.com/>
- You will need to sign up for an account on their website before getting an appointment.
- It is best to check the website or call early in the morning because appointments fill up fast.
- Look for locations in your area that say they have appointments available.
- Both you and your caregiver should check the box for **"I am a resident or staff member in a congregate living facility."**

How to schedule BY PHONE through Walgreens:

- You can call 1-800-925-4733 to schedule your appointment.
- Both you and your caregiver should tell them you are eligible under **"resident or staff member in a congregate living facility."**

How to schedule ONLINE through Pick 'n Save or Metro Market:

- Visit the website: <https://www.kroger.com/>
- Both you and your caregiver should choose **"Long Term Care or Congregate Living Facility Worker."**

- You and your caregiver may be able to get the vaccine at your doctor's office or through your local or tribal health department.

HOW CAN I GET TO MY VACCINE:

- If you have support staff where you live, they may be able to provide transportation.
- IRIS participants without their own transportation should use Non-Emergency Medical Transport.
- Non-Emergency Medical Transport (NEMT) can be scheduled on the same day as your vaccination.

More info on the COVID-19 vaccine can be found here: <https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/covid-19/vaccine-get.htm>

COVID-19 IRIS information can be found here: <https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/covid-19/forwardhealth-adult.htm>

Frequently Asked Questions about the COVID-19 Vaccine



What proof is needed for me and my caregiver to get the vaccine?

You should not have to show proof that you or your caregiver are able to get the vaccine. Some places have been asking for proof. You can take the letters you received about being in a long-term care program that talks about you and about your caregiver. If you don't have the letter, you can ask your IRIS consultant. You can also show them the website with the lists of who is approved: <https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/covid-19/vaccine-about.htm>

What if I need to talk with my guardian for permission to get the vaccine?

If you need help talking to your guardian about getting the vaccine, you should call your doctor to help you talk with them. They can help you explain why it is important to you to get the vaccine.

If I live in assisted living, where should I get the vaccine?

You should check with your caregiver or your IRIS consultant to see if you will get vaccinated in your home or if you need to go somewhere to get a vaccine.

I live in a 1-2 bed adult family home, where should I get the vaccine?

You will not get the vaccination in your home. Your caregiver or IRIS consultant can help you find places that are offering vaccinations. Your IRIS consultant may be able to help you set up your appointment.

Do I need to pay for my COVID-19 vaccine?

No. You will get the vaccine for free.

Will I still need to wear a mask and social distance after getting the vaccine?

Yes. It is important for everyone, even those who got the vaccine, to do these things until doctors learn more about the COVID-19 vaccine. Continuing to wear a mask, social distance, and wash hands will continue to protect everyone not only from COVID-19 but also other viruses like the flu.

Is the vaccine safe?

The vaccine was tested with many thousands of people to make sure it is safe. These people were different ages and races and they had different health problems. Most people did not have any serious reactions to the vaccine. When someone gets the vaccine, they wait for 15-30 minutes with the person who gave it to them to make sure they do not have any bad reactions.

Do I need to get both shots for the vaccine to work?

If you are getting the Moderna or Pfizer vaccine, you need to get both shots. If you are getting the Johnson & Johnson vaccine, then you will only need one shot. The person giving you the vaccine will let you know if you need to get one or two shots.

Should I get the vaccine if I already had COVID-19?

Talk to a doctor about this. People who have had the virus can get sick again. The doctor may suggest you wait depending on when you had COVID-19.

Who can help me if I have questions?

Checking the websites of your local or tribal health department, pharmacies, or hospitals can help you stay informed about what is happening in your area. You can also find more resources at: <https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/covid-19/vaccine-faq.htm>



WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT
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