

ALERT

From: Arizona Department of Health Services <azhealth@public.govdelivery.com>

Sent: Wednesday, January 6, 2021 12:02 PM

Subject: COVID-19 Vaccines and Allergic Reactions--CDC Update

Immunization Program



azhealth.gov

Health and Wellness for all Arizonans



COVID-19 Vaccines and Allergic Reactions – CDC Update: Recommendations on Who Should Not Receive mRNA COVID-19 Vaccines

If a person has had a severe allergic reaction to a COVID-19 vaccine

- If a person has a severe allergic reaction after getting the first dose of an mRNA COVID-19 vaccine, [CDC recommends](#) that **they should not get the second dose.**
 - An allergic reaction is considered severe when a person needs to be treated with epinephrine or EpiPen® or if they must go to the hospital.
- If a person has had a severe allergic reaction to [any ingredient](#) in an mRNA COVID-19 vaccine, they should not get either of the currently available mRNA COVID-19 vaccines.
- Healthcare personnel or health departments in the United States can request a consultation from the [Clinical Immunization Safety Assessment COVIDvax \(CISA\)](#) project for a complex COVID-19 vaccine safety question about an individual patient residing in the United States *not readily addressed by CDC guidance.*

If a person has had an immediate non-severe allergic reaction to a COVID-19 vaccine

- CDC has learned of reports that some people have experienced non-severe immediate allergic reactions within 4 hours after getting vaccinated, such as hives, swelling, and wheezing.

- If a person has had [an immediate allergic reaction](#) after getting the first dose of an mRNA COVID-19 vaccine, **they should not get the second dose** unless they have been evaluated by an allergist-immunologist and it is determined that the person can safely receive the vaccine (e.g., under observation, in a setting with advanced medical care available).
- Providers should attempt to determine whether reactions reported following vaccination are consistent with immediate allergic reactions versus other types of reactions commonly observed following vaccination, such as a vasovagal reaction or post-vaccination side effects (which are not contraindications to receiving the second vaccine dose).
 - A [Table](#) (Appendix C) of signs and symptoms may serve as a resource to differentiate between these reactions.
- If a person has had an immediate allergic reaction—even if it was not severe—to [any ingredient](#) in an mRNA COVID-19 vaccine, CDC recommends that they should not get either of the currently available mRNA COVID-19 vaccines.

If a person has had an allergic reaction to polyethylene glycol (PEG) or polysorbate

- People who are allergic to PEG or polysorbate should not get an mRNA COVID-19 vaccine.
 - PEG is contained in both mRNA vaccines.
 - Polysorbate is not an ingredient in either mRNA COVID-19 vaccine but is closely related to PEG, which is in the vaccines.

If a person has had an allergic reaction to other types of vaccines or an injectable therapy

- If a person has had an immediate allergic reaction—even if it was not severe—to a vaccine or injectable therapy (i.e., intramuscular, intravenous, or subcutaneous vaccines or therapies not related to a component of mRNA COVID-19 vaccines or polysorbate), it is a [precaution](#) though not a contraindication to vaccination for both mRNA vaccines.
 - These persons should be counseled about the unknown risks of developing a severe allergic reaction and balance these risks against the benefits of vaccination.
 - Deferral of vaccination and/or consultation with an allergist-immunologist may be considered until further information on the risk of anaphylaxis is available.
 - Certain [considerations](#) should be taken into account in deciding whether to give mRNA COVID-19 vaccine to these individuals.

If a person has allergies not related to vaccines

- CDC recommends that people with a history of severe allergic reactions not related to vaccines or injectable medications—such as food, pet, venom, environmental, or latex allergies—may receive mRNA COVID-19 vaccine.
- People with a history of allergies to oral medications or a family history of severe allergic reactions may also get vaccinated with mRNA COVID-19 vaccine.



shutterstock.com • 328522445

Sources:

- [COVID-19 Vaccines and Allergic Reactions](#)
- [Interim Clinical Considerations for Use of mRNA COVID-19 Vaccines Currently Authorized in the United States](#)

Arizona Immunization Program Office

150 N. 18th Ave., Suite 120
 Phoenix, AZ 85007
 602-364-3630

