



COVID-19 Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)



What is the Department of Commerce (DOC) doing to protect me?

First and foremost, the health, safety, and well-being of our employees remains our top priority. To maintain your safety on-site we have established comprehensive policies to protect individuals in their daily responsibilities and interactions (e.g., face mask, physical distancing requirements); provided cleaning materials for on-site personnel; and implemented enhanced environmental cleaning and sanitation procedures.

We continue to monitor building and community preparedness as well as medical planning through our COVID-19 Coordination team and are working with your Bureau's leadership to ensure a safe and healthy workplace.



I think I have COVID-19, what should I do?

Follow CDC and local health guidelines on testing, isolation, and quarantine. Contact your supervisor and check your Bureau's policies for testing and reporting COVID-19 cases. Click [here](#) to learn more about what to do if you are sick.



If I'm on-site, how can I protect myself and others?

Follow your Bureau and Office's guidelines and policies related to COVID-19 safety and prevention as well as on-site signage posted around your workplace. Adhere to CDC recommended prevention strategies like wearing a properly fitted face mask, avoiding crowds, physically distancing when possible, and frequent handwashing. Click [here](#) for more information on COVID-19 prevention methods.



I am working at home and feel disconnected. What should I do?

Working from home and other public health actions, such as quarantining, can impact our mental health and make us feel lonely and disconnected. The DOC recognizes this is a difficult time and is committed to supporting the mental health and resilience of its employees. Each Bureau within the DOC has an Employee Assistance Program (EAP) to provide support for all federal employees and their families, including access to counselors, health services, and other resources for care and treatment.

Click [here](#) for tips on taking care of your mental health and wellbeing.

Note: If you need immediate assistance for a mental health crisis, call 911.





COVID-19 FAQs



What COVID-19 vaccines are available?

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) authorized three vaccines to protect against the COVID-19 virus: Pfizer-BioNTech (Pfizer), Moderna, and Janssen's Johnson & Johnson (J&J). While each vaccine may vary (e.g., ingredients, eligibility, the number of, and time between doses) all help your body build protection against the COVID-19 virus. Click [here](#) to learn more about the different vaccines and who should get one.



If I get a vaccine, will it protect me against COVID-19 variants?

While the vaccines are highly effective, the CDC is still learning how effective the vaccines are against new variants of COVID-19. Early data shows that the vaccines protect against some variants. Click [here](#) to learn more.



What do I do if I am experiencing side effects after getting a vaccine?

Side effects are normal and help show that your body is building protection. If you are experiencing side effects, follow the CDC guidelines or speak with your doctor about how to manage side effects. Click [here](#) to learn more.

If you are experiencing more severe side effects and need more time to recover, consult your supervisor or Bureau leadership for flexible work options.



I just got my first dose of a vaccine, am I immune?

You are not immune until you have been fully vaccinated. "Fully vaccinated" is a peak immunity status that starts 2-weeks after your second-dose in a 2-dose vaccine or 2-weeks after a single-dose vaccine.



I know people who do not want to get the vaccine. How can I talk to them?

Getting a vaccine is a personal decision, but you may be able to help others understand the vaccine and relieve some concerns. Here are some tips you can use to engage others about COVID-19 vaccines:

- Start from a place of empathy and understanding.
- Address information by sharing key facts.
- Help others find credible sources of up-to-date vaccine information.
- Encourage others to discuss their concerns with their healthcare provider.

Still have questions? Reference CDC and local public health guidance, visit the [DOC COVID-19 Information Hub](#), or contact your Bureau leadership for more information.

