

In Santa Barbara County, we value health equity.

Achieving health equity requires valuing everyone equally with focused and ongoing efforts to address avoidable inequities, historical and contemporary injustices, and the elimination of health and healthcare disparities.

Long-standing health disparities combined with historic housing patterns, work circumstances and settings, and other factors have put members of some racial and ethnic minority populations at higher risk for COVID-19 infection, severe illness, and death. As we continue to learn more about the impact of COVID-19 on the health of different populations, Santa Barbara County Public Health remains committed to equity and access to relevant, evidence-based information and access to vaccine for those that want to be vaccinated.

COVID-19 Vaccinations in Santa Barbara County



FOR INFORMATION ON:

- COVID-19 Vaccines
- COVID-19 Testing Options
- State and Local Guidance
- Resources and Guidance for Isolation and Quarantine

 Call: 2-1-1

OR

 Visit our website at: PublicHealthSBC.org

Safe. Tested. Effective.



PublicHealthSBC.org

COVID-19 Vaccines in Santa Barbara County

The Santa Barbara County Public Health Department follows guidelines from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), California Department of Public Health (CDPH), and the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) to prioritize vaccine distribution. Vaccine production is slowly increasing in the United States. A phased approach is being used to ensure high-risk community members are prioritized as vaccine distribution continues.

Why is getting vaccinated important?

COVID-19 vaccination is an important tool to help us end the COVID-19 Pandemic. Studies show that COVID-19 vaccines are effective at keeping you from getting COVID-19. Experts also think that getting a COVID-19 vaccine may help keep you from getting seriously ill even if you do get COVID-19.

How can I get vaccinated?

When you are eligible for a vaccine, and when vaccine supply is available, you will be able to make an appointment through your provider, a participating pharmacy, the local hospitals or at a County vaccination clinic. The public can sign up for county vaccine updates and information on the Public Health website.

Where can I get reliable information?

The Santa Barbara County Public Health Department Vaccine webpage is the main source for updated information in Santa Barbara County. On our webpage you can receive updated information on target groups being vaccinated, when and where people will be vaccinated and how you can receive information on scheduling appointments.

What if I am unable to use the website?

The Santa Barbara County COVID-19 Call Center is available to all members of our community. To be connected, simply dial "2-1-1" or (800)-400-1572 from an out of area number. Select your preferred language, and once prompted, select "Option 4" to be connected to a live representative. If you are currently eligible, you can also get help scheduling your appointment.

Can a vaccine make me sick with COVID-19?

No. None of the authorized and recommended COVID-19 vaccines or COVID-19 vaccines currently in development in the United States contain the live virus that causes COVID-19. This means that a COVID-19 vaccine **cannot** make you sick with COVID-19.

Can a COVID-19 vaccine alter my DNA?

No. COVID-19 mRNA vaccines do not change or interact with your DNA in any way. Inside our bodies, these vaccines tell our cells to produce the "spike" protein found on the surface of the COVID-19 virus. Our immune system then recognizes the spike protein as an invader and produces antibodies against it. If these antibodies later encounter the actual virus, they are ready to recognize and destroy it before it can cause illness.

Is it safe for me to get a COVID-19 vaccine if I would like to have a baby?

Yes. People who want to get pregnant in the future may receive the COVID-19 vaccine. The COVID-19 vaccine, like other vaccines, works by training our bodies to develop antibodies to fight against the virus that causes COVID-19, to prevent future illness. There is currently no evidence that antibodies formed from COVID-19 vaccination cause any problems with pregnancy.

Is the COVID-19 Vaccine safe for everyone?

Though most people over the age of 16 will be able to get the vaccine, certain people should not. These include persons with strong adverse reactions after the first shot. Persons with severe allergy to polyethyleneglycol, and persons with a history to anaphylaxis to vaccines.

Vaccines currently in use in the United States have been tested and proven effective in many different racial and ethnic groups. These vaccines were also shown to be effective in people with underlying conditions including people with diabetes and those identified as obese or overweight.