COVID-19 is an illness caused by a new coronavirus. You can get very sick from COVID-19. It can make it hard for you to breathe.

New types of COVID-19 emerge over time. Each type is called a variant. The Delta variant is easier to catch and can make you sicker than previous variants. The Omicron variant is also easier to catch.

There are vaccines to help your body fight COVID-19. A vaccine is a shot in the arm. This fact sheet will help you understand how to get the COVID-19 vaccine.

You might not feel well for a few days after getting the COVID-19 vaccine. You might feel tired, have sore muscles, or have a mild fever. This is good. It means that the COVID-19 vaccine is working.

You can report how you are feeling through an application called v-safe. Learn more about v-safe on this website. Call your doctor if you have questions.

Some people may have severe side effects after getting the COVID-19 vaccine. An example is having trouble breathing. This is very rare. If this happens, tell somebody and call 911 or go to the emergency room.

Some COVID-19 vaccines require you to get a second dose. The timing of the second dose depends on which vaccine you got. The second dose makes the COVID-19 vaccine work better.

If you have a weakened immune system, some COVID-19 vaccines may also require you to get a third dose. The third dose makes the COVID-19 vaccine work better. Learn who should get a third dose and when at this website.

Some people should also get an extra dose, called a booster shot. The booster shot makes the COVID-19 vaccine work longer. Learn who should get a booster shot and when at this website.

You should continue to be careful after getting the vaccine.

If you have a weak immune system, you need to continue to wear a mask, wash your hands, and stay six feet away from other people.

If you live in an area with a lot of COVID-19 cases, you should wear a mask when you are:

- indoors,
- near a lot of people outside, or
- near people who did not get the vaccine.

Go to this website to see if you live in an area where you should wear a mask.