

COVID-19 Vaccine Common Vocabulary

What does it mean?

- **Administer vaccine:** To give someone a shot of vaccine, usually in the arm.
- **Allocation of vaccine:** The federal government promises a certain amount of vaccine to each state each week.
- **Antibodies:** Something your body makes to fight germs. Having antibodies in your blood may tell you if you had COVID-19 in the past. Antibodies may also help to keep you from getting COVID-19 again, at least for a while.
- **Clinical study:** Finding a lot of people who are willing to try a new medicine to see how well it works. The medicine has already gone through a lot of testing for safety.
- **Distribute vaccine:** To send vaccine to all the places that will give it to people. Vaccine shipments from the federal government are sent across the state.
- **Dose:** The amount of medicine or vaccine someone gets. This is also called a shot.
- **Efficacy:** How well a product works.
- **Herd immunity:** When most people in a population or group probably will not get a disease because they got a vaccine for it, or they already had the disease and cannot get it again, at least for a while.
- **Immune system:** How our body keeps us from getting diseases and helps us get well if we get sick.
- **Immunity or immune response:** When someone is protected from getting a disease because they got a vaccine for it, or they already had the disease and cannot get it again, at least for a while. Sometimes people must get another shot after some days, months, or years later so the body stays protected.
- **Immunocompromised:** When someone has a hard time fighting disease, so they may get very sick. They have an immune system that doesn't work very well.

- **Messenger ribonucleic acid (mRNA):** This is what is in COVID-19 vaccine that tells someone's body to make a copy of part of a germ. Then the body can make what it needs to fight the disease without first having to get sick.
- **Prevent:** To stop something from happening. Vaccines stop diseases.
- **Side effect:** Things your body may feel after getting a COVID-19 vaccine, such as a sore arm, or a headache. This is your body responding to the vaccine. Some people may not have any side effects at all.
- **Spike protein:** The virus that causes COVID-19 has points that stick out of it like spikes, called spike proteins. They help the virus infect people.
- **Symptoms:** Signs of being sick. Some examples are a fever, sore throat, congestion, or a headache.
- **Transmission:** The spread of the virus.
- **Vaccine:** A medicine that protects you from getting a disease. It is usually given to someone by a shot in their arm. There are different vaccines for different illnesses. For example, the flu vaccine protects you from the flu. The COVID-19 vaccine protects you from COVID-19. You may have to get more than one dose of a vaccine.
- **Vaccinate:** To give a person a vaccine, usually by a shot in the arm.
- **Vaccinator:** Health care worker that gives a person a vaccine.

Acknowledgement: This glossary was provided by the Minnesota Department of Health.