



Stronger together

Preparing for COVID-19 vaccination abroad

You want to get back to normal – we’re here to help. Safe and effective vaccines for COVID-19 are becoming available across the globe. Each country has its own plan for how people will be vaccinated. Wherever you are in the world, you can use the five questions below to make sure you’re prepared for the COVID-19 vaccine while abroad.



Who is eligible for vaccination?

Many countries are prioritizing individuals by risk category, with healthcare and essential workers, people with certain health conditions and the elderly (65+) vaccinated first. Some countries may also have citizenship, insurance coverage or other residency requirements for vaccination. You can find up-to-date information on risk categories and requirements for many countries on the [World Health Organization’s COVID-19 emergency resources site](#). You can also talk to your local health care provider to discuss availability and requirements in your area.



Which vaccines are available?

Depending on your location, different vaccines from several manufacturers may be available. Your Aetna International plan covers all FDA-approved vaccines as well as vaccine medications approved by FDA-equivalent authorities* in the country where you're vaccinated. You can use resources on the [WHO's website](#) to find the FDA-equivalent authority in many locations.

It's important to note each vaccine medication is different. Some vaccines require two shots – others only require one. And some vaccines may be more effective than others. You can use the following online resources to learn more about available vaccines, including potential side effects, any medications or activities to avoid prior to vaccination and how many follow-ups you'll need:

- [COVID-19: Risks and side effects of vaccination](#)
- [The COVID-19 vaccine and travel](#)
- [You can still spread, develop COVID-19 after getting a vaccine – what to know](#)

*FDA-equivalent authorities are organizations responsible for approving medicines for use in each country. For example, in Dubai, the DHA (Dubai Health Authority) is FDA-equivalent. In Russia, the Ministry of Health (Minzdrav) is FDA-equivalent. In the UK, the MHRA (Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency) is FDA-equivalent.



Where and when can I be vaccinated?

In many countries, vaccines are available to individuals only through government facilities like public health clinics and hospitals. In other locations, vaccination is available via private sources like pharmacies and doctor's offices. Additionally, supply chain and distribution issues in some areas can make locating a vaccination site challenging.

Until supplies and distribution stabilize, talk to your local health care provider to find out where and when vaccination will be available to you. You can also follow public health authorities in your area on their website and social media (where available) for current information.



How much will vaccination cost?

As an Aetna International member*, your vaccination is covered at 100%, meaning you won't pay out of pocket for the vaccine or its administration, no matter where you are. Fees associated with vaccination on an expedited basis, "VIP" charges or similar costs are not covered.

If you are asked to pay for your vaccine upfront, follow the steps on the Aetna member website to submit your claim for reimbursement, or call the number on the back of your Member ID card for assistance.

*Not applicable to WorldTraveler, WorldTraveler+, or TravelWell plans.



How do I make an appointment?

Once you've met local criteria and know where to go for a vaccination, it's important to understand how to enter the queue. Steps will vary by region and provider. Follow the directions of your provider or local public health authority once you have met the requirements. Most vaccination sites require pre-registration for a vaccination appointment, while some mass vaccination sites allow walk-ups, with proof of eligibility.



More resources for our members

COVID-19 vaccination can help us all get back to normal. If you need more information on vaccination or on COVID-19, the links below are a great start.

- [The World Health Organization](#)
- [The United States Department of State](#)
- [Centers for Disease Control](#)
- [University of Oxford COVID-19 Vaccination Policy Tracker](#)
- [Milken Institute Vaccine Tracker](#)
- [Aetna International's COVID-19 resource hub](#)

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