Navigating VAMS

Quick Tip: VAMS works best in the Google Chrome browser but can be accessed via any browser except Internet Explorer. VAMS also works on mobile browsers.

To access VAMS once registered, visit the landing page (https://vams.cdc.gov/vaccineportal/s) and log in with your user name and password (see Section 1, Step 1 for how to activate your VAMS account).

The components listed below are in VAMS to help you navigate the system.

Header/Banner

The VAMS logo takes you to your portal’s home page. The Help link takes you to a list of frequently asked questions (FAQs) that will help you navigate the system. Click the drop-down arrow next to your name in the top right corner of the page to log out of the system.

Buttons

Buttons like those shown on the right allow you to start, advance, and complete tasks.

Tabs

Click tabs on a page to move between pages or page sections. The tab you are currently viewing will be underlined and bolded. Tabs not being viewed will be grayed out.

Tables

Tables allow users to sort or filter information previously entered in VAMS. You can view entry details by clicking the links in each row.

A Note About Privacy

To receive COVID-19 vaccine, you must enter data that are considered personally identifiable information (PII) and protected health information (PHI). PII is any data that could potentially identify you, like your name and address. PHI is information about your physical and mental health and other conditions, like whether you are pregnant. VAMS complies with the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (HIPAA) privacy and security rules. For more information about HIPAA, visit https://www.cdc.gov/phlp/publications/topic/hipaa.html.
### Section 1

**Getting Started in VAMS**

You must activate your VAMS account to schedule a vaccination appointment at a clinic near you. This checklist summarizes the six steps you will take to activate your account and get set up in VAMS.

*The links below are clickable and will take you to the corresponding pages in this user manual.*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Step</th>
<th>What You Need to Complete this Step</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| **Step 1:** Activate Your VAMS Account | Access to the internet  
| | • Access to your email account  
| | • Registration email from vams@cdc.gov  
| **Step 2:** Provide Personal Information | Date of birth  
| | • Race and ethnicity  
| | • Home address  
| | • Cell phone number  
| | • Preferred method of contact  
| **Step 3:** Provide Medical History, including any known allergies or medical conditions | If you are currently pregnant or a nursing mother  
| | • If you are currently living in a nursing home  
| | • Any known allergies or existing conditions  
| | • Any current medications  
| | • Any other relevant medical information  
| **Step 4:** Enter Insurance Information, if applicable | Insurance provider  
| | • Group number  
| | • Policy number  
| **Step 5:** Review Organization Information | Organization’s name, email, and address to confirm this information is correct in VAMS  
| | • Any additional organization’s name, email, and address (if applicable)  
| **Step 6:** Review Your Information | Nothing  

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VAM 1.0 | rev Nov 23 2020
Step 1: Activate Your VAMS Account

What you’ll need to complete this step

- Access to the internet
- Access to your email account
- Registration email from vams@cdc.gov

You must activate an account in VAMS to use the system. After the employer coordinator for your organization enters your name and email address in VAMS, you will receive an email with a VAMS registration link.

- Search your inbox for an email from vams@cdc.gov.
  
  **Quick Tip:** If this email is not in your inbox, you may need to check your junk or spam mail folders. If you still cannot find the email, contact your organization’s employer coordinator.

- Click the registration link in the email. This will take you to the prescreener page in VAMS.

  **NOTE:** The registration link in your email is for your registration only and cannot be used to register anyone else. Please do not forward it to anyone because the link will not work for them.

- If you are eligible for vaccination after responding to the prescreening questions, you will progress to the account registration page.

- Verify your email address (the email address where you received the original VAMS invitation will be prepopulated). Your email address will be your **user name** when logging into VAMS.

- Create and verify your **password**.

- Check your email account for a **verification code** that will be sent to you immediately after clicking the registration link in your email from vams@cdc.gov. **Enter the verification code.**

- Read the **terms and conditions** and check the box saying you agree.

- Click **Create Account**.

  **NOTE:** Every time you log into VAMS, you must verify your identity by entering your password, and a number you receive via email (two-factor authentication process). After five log-in attempt failures, you will be locked out of the system for one hour.

Upon logging into VAMS, you will follow Steps 2–6 to register your account.
Step 2: Provide Personal Information

What information you’ll need to provide to complete this step

- Date of birth (DOB)
- Race and ethnicity
- Home address
- Cell phone number
- Preferred method of contact

- After activating your VAMS account, you will be taken through the account registration process. The first step of this process is to enter personal information.

- Your name and email address will already be entered since you just activated your account.

➤ You are required to enter the following information as indicated by red asterisks next to these fields:
  - Gender (option to decline to specify)
  - DOB
  - Race and ethnicity
  - Home address
  - Cell phone number
  - Preferred method of contact (email or SMS/text message)

**NOTE:** If you elect to receive text messages, you can respond to an automated message with HELP at any time to be taken to the FAQs page in VAMS for assistance.

If you unsubscribe or opt out of notifications, you will no longer receive any notifications from VAMS, including appointment reminders. You will also no longer receive the two-factor authentication notifications, meaning you will no longer be able to log into VAMS.

- Entering the following information is optional:
  - Middle name
  - Home phone
  - Emergency contact name and phone number

➤ Click Next.
Step 3: Provide Medical History

What information you’ll need to provide to complete this step

• Any known allergies or existing conditions
• Any current medications (optional)
• Any other relevant medical information (optional)

• After entering personal information, you’ll be asked to enter your medical history.

**NOTE:** Information entered on the Medical History tab is only visible to the healthcare professional(s) administering your vaccine.

➤ You are **required** to enter the following information:

• Whether or not you are currently pregnant*
• Whether or not you are currently a nursing mother*
• Whether or not you currently live in a nursing home
• Any known allergies
• Any known existing conditions

• Entering the following information is **optional:**

• Any medications
• Any other relevant medical information

➤ Click **Next**.

*These questions do not appear if you select male as your gender.*
Step 4: Enter Insurance Information (Optional)

What optional information you can provide to complete this step

- Your insurance provider
- Group number
- Policy number

This step is optional.

- If you do not want to add insurance information, click Next.
- If you want to add insurance information, enter insurance information, including:
  - Insurance provider
  - Group number
  - Policy number
- Click Next.
Step 5: Review Organization Information, Add Additional Organizations

What you’ll need to complete this step

- Organization’s name, email, and address to confirm this information is correct in VAMS
- Any additional organization’s name, email, and address (if applicable)

- Review the information shown for your primary employer or organization. **NOTE:** This is the employer or organization that identified you as eligible to receive a vaccine.

- Continue to the next step if you have more than one employer. If not, click Next.

- Click Add Organization to add a second employer or organization, if applicable. You do not have to add another organization. You may do this if you have a second employer or volunteer for another organization. **NOTE:** Collecting your organization’s information ensures you are linked to your organization and role in VAMS. No matter how many vaccine-eligible organizations you are associated with, you will only register once.

- You must add your additional organization’s name.

  - It is optional to add the following information about your organization:
    - Email address
    - Street address
    - Role/position
    - Critical infrastructure group

- Click Next.
Step 6: Review Your Information

- **Review** your personal, medical, insurance, and organization information for accuracy. If any information is inaccurate, click **Previous** to make edits before moving forward.

- **Confirm** all information is correct and complete, then check the box confirming the information is correct.

- Click **Finish**. This takes you to the Confirmation page.

- Click **View Portal** to be taken to the Recipient Portal home page or click **Schedule Vaccination Appointment** to begin scheduling an appointment.

**NOTE**: After registering, you can log in at any time to review or edit your information through the Recipient Portal tabs and to schedule a vaccination appointment.
Now that your VAMS account is activated and ready to use, you can schedule your COVID-19 vaccination appointment. This section will review how to schedule, cancel, or reschedule an appointment and provide information about walk-in appointments.

*The boxes below are clickable links to the corresponding pages in this user manual.*

**Schedule Your Appointment**

- **Schedule Appointment**
  - Use VAMS to:
    - ✓ Find a clinic near you.
    - ✓ Select a vaccination appointment date and time.
    - ✓ Review your vaccination appointment information.

- **Cancel or Reschedule Your Appointment**
  - Learn how to cancel or reschedule a vaccination appointment if needed.

- **Walk-in Appointments**
  - Learn more about walk-in appointments available at many clinics.
Schedule Your Appointment: Find a Clinic

What you’ll need to complete this step

• ZIP code where you want to be vaccinated

Scheduling your appointment ahead of time ensures you can be vaccinated quickly.

➢ Schedule your appointment from the **My Appointments** page or from the **Registration Confirmation** page by clicking the Schedule Appointment button.

**NOTE:** You can only have **one** appointment scheduled at a time. If you have an existing appointment scheduled, you will not be able to schedule another appointment until the existing appointment is cancelled or completed.

➢ On the Clinic Location page, locate a clinic by entering the **address or ZIP code** where you want to be vaccinated. You can **filter** results to locate a clinic within a 5-, 10-, 20-, 50-, or 100-mile radius of your address or ZIP code by clicking the drop-down arrow in the **Within** field.

➢ Click **Search** and a list of clinics within your selected mile radius will appear.

➢ Click the **clinic name** of your preferred clinic, then click the **Next** button that appears below the map.

**NOTE:** You must click the clinic name link for the **Next** button to appear.
Schedule Your Appointment: Select a Time

What you’ll need to complete this step

- What date and time you’re available for an appointment (keep travel time in mind).

- On the Date and Time page, select an available appointment **date on the calendar** located on the left side of the page. Days with available appointments will appear in black text while unavailable days will be in gray.

- Select your appointment time by clicking a **time slot**, then click **Next**. Time slots that are available will appear in blue text while unavailable time slots will be in gray.

  **NOTE:** Your selected appointment time slot will be held in the system for 10 minutes. If the appointment is not confirmed by that time, it will be released in the system.

  **Quick Tip:** When considering an appointment, please **allow plenty of time to arrive** on time. Showing up late may result in cancellation and require you to reschedule at a later date.

- Review your selected appointment location, date, and time.

- Click **Submit** to confirm your appointment or **Previous** to make any changes.

  - After clicking **Submit**, you will see a confirmation that your appointment has been scheduled. The confirmation includes your appointment details and a QR code.

  - You can present this QR code to the front desk staff for a contactless check-in when you arrive for your appointment.

  - Click the **VAMS logo** in the header to return to the home page or click the **Cancel Appointment** button if you need to change the appointment.

    **NOTE:** You will also receive an appointment confirmation through your preferred contact method. If received by email, your appointment confirmation will include the QR code.
Schedule Your Appointment: Review

Review Appointment Information

After you click the VAMS logo in the header and return to the home page, you can view your appointment information on the My Appointments page. The My Appointments table on this page lists all the appointments you scheduled, completed, or cancelled.

- Twelve hours before your appointment, a new alert will appear above the My Appointments tab with a link to information about the vaccine and a Prevaccination Questionnaire. **You must complete the questionnaire before your appointment.** The information about the vaccine will be in an EUA Fact Sheet if you receive a vaccine under the Emergency Use Authorization (EUA) or in a Vaccine Information Sheet (VIS).

- **Section 3: Receive Your Vaccine** provides detailed instructions for completing this questionnaire.

To view details about a particular appointment, click *View Appointment* in the far-right column of the table.

- A new window will appear with the same details you saw on the appointment confirmation page (e.g., clinic address and QR code).
Cancel or Reschedule Your Appointment

You must use VAMS to cancel or reschedule your appointment. Click **Cancel Appointment** in your appointment confirmation email to access VAMS.

**NOTE:** Appointment cancellation policies may vary among clinics. Contact your clinic for more information.

Follow these steps to cancel an appointment in VAMS:

- Click on the My Appointments tab.
- Click **View Appointment** to access the appointment you want to cancel.
- Click the **Cancel Appointment** button.
- A pop-up window will appear confirming you want to cancel the appointment.
- Select a reason for cancellation from the drop-down menu.
- If you want to proceed, click **Cancel Appointment**.
- If you want to keep the appointment, click **Keep Appointment**.
- A pop-up window will appear confirming the appointment has been cancelled.
- Click **OK**.

**To reschedule an appointment:**
1. Follow the steps above to cancel your original appointment.
2. Follow the steps listed at the beginning of this section to schedule a new appointment.
Walk-In Appointments

Some clinics may allow walk-in appointments if you do not have a scheduled appointment.

You may also request a walk-in appointment even if you already have an appointment scheduled at a different clinic or if you already have an appointment scheduled at that clinic but would like to be seen sooner. Regardless, you must perform the following steps before requesting a walk-in appointment at a clinic:

- Register in VAMS.
- Complete your Prevaccination Questionnaire and review the vaccine information provided to you.

Follow these steps to request a walk-in appointment:

- Locate and travel to a clinic. Make sure you check the clinic operating hours to confirm the clinic will be open when you arrive.
- Inform the front desk staff that you would like a walk-in appointment.
  - The front desk staff will request your email address to confirm you have registered in VAMS, so make sure you provide the email you used when you activated your VAMS account.
  - The front desk staff will confirm you do not have any vaccination appointments scheduled in the system and then schedule a walk-in appointment at the current clinic. This process will create a QR code for check-in. You will then receive a notification to complete your Prevaccination Questionnaire. This must be completed before you check in.
  - If you already have an appointment scheduled at another clinic, the front desk staff can provide you with information about the appointment so you can decide if you want to:
    - Keep the existing scheduled appointment or
    - Cancel the existing appointment and have the front desk staff schedule a walk-in appointment at that clinic.
  - If the front desk staff schedules a walk-in appointment for you, the process will create a QR code for check-in.

Quick Tip: Walk-in appointment availability may vary at each clinic. Contact your desired clinic for more information.

Conflicting appointment

Jane Doe currently has the following appointment scheduled:

Recipient details
Jane Doe
DOB: 10/01/1965
jane@email.com

Appointment details
Downtown Atlanta Mass Vaccination Clinic
123 Main St.
Atlanta, GA 30303

Monday, November 06, 2023
11:00 AM - 12:00 PM

Do you want to cancel this appointment and schedule a walk-in at the Downtown Atlanta Mass Vaccination Clinic?

- No, keep the existing appointment
- Yes, cancel the existing appointment and schedule a walk-in appointment

Submit
Section 3

Get Vaccinated

This section tells you what to expect and what needs to be done before and after your vaccination appointment and how VAMS can help you complete these tasks.

The boxes below are clickable links to the corresponding pages in this user manual.

Get Vaccinated

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Steps to Take Before Your Appointment(s)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Receive your appointment confirmation and complete the Prevaccination Questionnaire required for vaccination. Review the vaccine information provided to you before your appointment.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Steps to Take After Your Appointment(s)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Schedule your next vaccination appointment and report any side effects.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Steps to Take Before Your Appointment

Here’s what to expect leading up to and on the day of your appointment.

Pre-Appointment Notifications

You will receive the following notifications through your preferred contact method.

NOTE: If you unsubscribe/opt out of notifications, you will no longer receive appointment reminders, the reminders listed below, or any other electronic communication from VAMS, including two-factor verification. **This means you will no longer be able to log into VAMS.**

**Appointment Confirmation:** This includes appointment details like date, time, location, what to bring, and a link to cancel the appointment.

**Appointment Reminder with Prevaccination Questionnaire and Emergency Use Authorization (EUA) Fact Sheet.** This includes:

- The **EUA Fact Sheet** in a PDF or link to a PDF (depending on your preferred contact method). This document will provide information you need to know about the vaccine.

- The **Prevaccination Questionnaire** is accessible by clicking a link to the Prevaccination Questionnaire. You must complete and digitally sign the questionnaire before receiving the vaccine.

The **Prevaccination Questionnaire** will look similar to the screenshot below and require you to **answer questions** about your health and acknowledge receipt of the vaccine information provided before receiving the vaccine.

It is important you answer these questions truthfully. Your answers are used to determine if you can receive a vaccine on the day of your appointment.

**NOTE:** Your current health status may require you to reschedule your appointment.

- Answer the questions in the questionnaire.
- Click **Next**.

As referenced in **Section 2: Schedule Your Vaccination Appointment**, you can access the Prevaccination Questionnaire through VAMS. An alert appears above the My Appointments tab 12 hours before your appointment time.

**NOTE:** You must complete the Prevaccination Questionnaire before your appointment and cannot be checked in for your appointment until it is complete.
Steps to Take Before Your Appointment

Timing of Notifications
When you receive the Appointment Reminder with EUA Fact Sheet and Prevaccination Questionnaire notification depends on how far in advance you schedule your appointment.

If your appointment is…

...TODAY
If you select an appointment time that is the same day, you receive notifications:

• Within 30-40 minutes of appointment confirmation

...TOMORROW
If you select an appointment time for the next day, you receive notifications:

• If appointment is before 12 PM the next day, 9 PM the night before the appointment

• if appointment is after 12 PM the next day, 12 AM the day of the appointment

...1+ DAYS AWAY
If you select an appointment more than 24 hours away that is not scheduled for the next day, you receive notifications:

• 12 hours before your appointment

NOTE: All times shown will align with your local time zone.

Arriving for Your Appointment(s)
After arriving for your appointment, you need to show the following items:

• One of the options below:
  o Printed copy of your appointment confirmation, including your appointment-specific QR code (click Ctrl + P to print the QR code from VAMS).
  OR
  o Your phone/mobile device with your appointment confirmation QR code for contactless check-in.
• Government-issued ID (required at some clinics)

NOTE: If your clinic requires a government-issued ID and you do not provide one, your appointment will be cancelled. You must then reschedule your appointment.
Steps to Take After Your Appointment

Here’s what to expect after your appointment.

Schedule Your Next Appointment

If the vaccine you receive requires a second dose, it’s important that you schedule your next appointment so you can make sure you get both COVID-19 vaccine doses to be protected.

After you receive your first dose, you can immediately schedule an appointment to receive your next dose. The appointment times available to you will depend on the vaccine protocol, meaning you will not be able to schedule an appointment for any date before the next dose is actually due.

If you don’t schedule your next appointment, you will get a reminder notification to do so. This notification is sent through your preferred contact method and includes a link to schedule your appointment in VAMS. You will also see a notification on the Recipient Portal home page when you log into VAMS telling you when you are eligible for your next dose.

The steps for scheduling your next appointment are the same as those in Section 2: Schedule Your Vaccination Appointment.

Post-Appointment Notifications

You will receive the following notifications after your appointment. They will be sent through your preferred contact method.

**NOTE:** If you unsubscribe or opt out of notifications, you will no longer receive appointment reminders, the reminders listed below, or any other notifications from VAMS, including two-factor authentication emails. **This means you will no longer be able to log into VAMS.**

- **Schedule your follow-up appointment:** Confirms receipt of first vaccine dose and provides information on when and how to schedule your next appointment, if required
- **Schedule your follow-up appointment reminder:** A reminder to schedule your next appointment if you haven’t done so already
- **Possible side effect follow-up:** A reminder on how and when to report any serious complications (adverse events) that may arise after vaccination to ensure your safety