



Which vaccines are available?

Currently, three vaccines are authorized and recommended in the U.S. to prevent COVID-19:

- Pfizer-BioNTech
- Moderna
- Johnson & Johnson

The vaccines work by instructing your body to make a harmless piece of "spike protein" that is found on the surface COVID-19 virus. Your body builds an immune response against this protein and stores that response in the memory cells to use it against COVID-19 virus when or if exposed/infected.

How many doses do I need?

Pfizer and Moderna vaccines require two doses to be fully effective and the Johnson & Johnson vaccine requires one dose to reach full efficacy.

- Two doses for the Pfizer vaccine, 21 days apart.
- Two doses for the Moderna vaccine, 28 days apart.
- One dose for the Johnson & Johnson vaccine.

If you can't get your second dose of Pfizer or Moderna at the recommended interval, then it will still be as effective up to 6 weeks (42 days) after the first dose. There will simply be a delay in getting to the 94/95% efficacy until you receive your second dose. There is limited data on the efficacy of Pfizer and Moderna vaccines administered beyond the 6 week window.

Is one dose of the COVID-19 vaccine effective for Pfizer and Moderna?

Getting the second dose of the Pfizer and Moderna vaccine will make it more effective. When you receive your first dose, you should schedule the second dose appointment before leaving the vaccination site.

Can you be infected with COVID-19 in between doses?

Yes, one can get infected with COVID-19 between the two doses. Efficacy of the Pfizer and Moderna vaccines in preventing symptomatic disease were noted to be only 52% and 80.2%, respectively, after the first dose. Johnson & Johnson is a one dose vaccine and provides 85% efficacy in preventing severe COVID-19 illness.

Will I have a choice about which brand of COVID-19 vaccine I get?

Due to limited supply and equal efficacy of all three vaccines, the vaccine you receive will depend on what is available at that time. The Pfizer, Moderna, and Johnson & Johnson vaccines are all safe and effective.

How long will it take for the vaccine to protect me from COVID-19?

People are considered fully vaccinated for COVID-19 2 weeks after they have received the second dose in a 2-dose series of the Pfizer or Moderna vaccine, and 2 weeks after they have received a single-dose of the Johnson & Johnson vaccine.

Are there any side effects?

The most commonly reported side effects, which typically lasted 1-3 days, were pain at the injection site, tiredness, headache, muscle pain, chills, joint pain, and fever.

Can a COVID-19 vaccine make me sick with COVID-19?

No. The COVID-19 vaccines do not contain a "live" virus and cannot give you COVID-19. If you feel ill after getting vaccinated, that is because the vaccine is creating your body's immune response against the virus that it will use in case you get infected with COVID-19 in the future.

After getting a COVID-19 vaccine, will I test positive for COVID-19 on a viral test?

No. A vaccine will not cause you to test positive on viral tests.

COVID-19 Vaccine **FAQ** cont.

How effective are the COVID-19 vaccines?

After receiving two doses of the Pfizer and Moderna vaccine, they have shown to be 94-95% effective in preventing symptomatic disease and the Johnson & Johnson vaccine has 85% efficacy in preventing severe COVID-19 illness. All of the three authorized vaccines are 100% effective at preventing hospitalization and death related to COVID-19. All three vaccines passed rigorous clinical safety standards set by the FDA.

How much will the vaccine cost?

COVID-19 vaccines, including their administration, are free.

Is the vaccine safe for children?

Currently, COVID-19 vaccines are not recommended for children under sixteen years of age:

- Pfizer vaccine is for ages sixteen and above.
- Moderna and Johnson & Johnson vaccines are for ages eighteen and above.

Clinical trials are currently ongoing to identify if these vaccines are safe in children less than sixteen years of age. Children and adolescents should be encouraged to continue with COVID-19 precautions: wear a mask, wash hands, and watch your distance.

Can pregnant or breastfeeding women be vaccinated against COVID-19?

Yes. Pregnant women have a higher risk for complications from COVID-19 disease. There are no study results available yet on the safety of COVID-19 vaccines in pregnant women. However, experts believe that the vaccines are unlikely to pose a risk to the woman or the fetus. There were women in the trials that became pregnant soon after getting the vaccine and as of now no adverse effects have been reported in those patients. Pregnant women can talk with a doctor about their risk of COVID-19 disease and how they might benefit from vaccination.

If I have already had COVID-19 and recovered, do I still need to get vaccinated with a COVID-19 vaccine?

Yes, as of now we know that there is short term immunity after one gets COVID but people can get re-infected and the hope is that vaccine provides a longer immunity than the disease itself and prevents people from getting COVID again.

Will a COVID-19 vaccine alter my DNA?

No. COVID-19 mRNA vaccines do not change or interact with your DNA in any way. The mRNA from a COVID-19 vaccine never enters the nucleus of the cell, which is where our DNA is kept. This means the mRNA cannot affect or interact with our DNA in any way. Instead, COVID-19 mRNA vaccines work with the body's natural defenses to safely develop immunity to the disease.

Will the COVID-19 vaccine be a mandatory requirement?

No, there is no mandatory vaccination requirement from either the state or federal government.

Will I still need to wear a mask after getting a COVID-19 vaccine?

Yes, Vaccines are not 100% effective and the data is unclear in regard to duration of immunity, hence it is important that we continue to follow the social distancing, masking and handwashing guidelines until majority of the people are vaccinated and we have more data in regard to the immunity from the vaccines.



FOR INFORMATION ON COVID-19 VACCINES VISIT:
www.fcdph.org/covid19vax