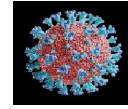


COVID-19 VACCINE INFORMATION 3.22.2021



The two COVID-19 vaccines first approved for use in the United States are Pfizer-BioNTech and Moderna. Both of these vaccines are “Messenger RNA vaccines”. These vaccines will help protect you from getting sick with the COVID-19 virus because they teach the body’s immune system how to recognize and fight the virus that causes COVID-19.

On February 27, 2021, the FDA authorized Johnson & Johnson’s COVID-19 vaccine. This is a viral vector vaccine that instructs the body to produce antibodies that result in an immune response so that our body has learned how to protect itself against future infection from the COVID-19 virus.

Answers to Frequently Asked Questions:

- Do I need two doses of the COVID-19 vaccine?
If you receive the Pfizer or Moderna vaccine, yes, two doses are needed for protection from the COVID-19 virus. You will receive the second dose three-four weeks after your first shot. The Pfizer and Moderna vaccines are not interchangeable, so your second shot should be the same vaccine product as you received for your first dose.
If you receive the Johnson & Johnson vaccine, only a single dose is required.
- Will I feel sick after receiving the COVID-19 vaccination?
Some side effects are normal, such as mild flu-like symptoms, but these should resolve in a few days.
- If I have food or medication allergies, should I be concerned about getting the COVID-19 vaccine?
In general, no. Although severe allergic reactions have occurred after receiving the Pfizer-BioNTech or Moderna COVID-19 vaccine, they are extremely rare.
The FDA’s analysis of safety data for the Johnson & Johnson vaccine found “a favorable safety profile with no specific safety concerns.” The Johnson & Johnson vaccine does not contain eggs, preservatives or latex.
It is recommended that people with allergies be observed for thirty minutes after receiving the vaccine. Speak with your allergist or primary care physician if you have questions or concerns.
- When I get the COVID-19 vaccine, will I be protected right away?
No. It takes a few weeks for the body to develop an immunity.
- Can I get COVID-19 from receiving the vaccination?
NO! Neither the Pfizer, Moderna or Johnson & Johnson COVID-19 vaccines can give you COVID-19.
- Will I test positive for COVID-19 after I receive the COVID-19 vaccine?
No. A viral test for COVID-19 will not be positive after you have received the COVID-19 vaccine.
- If I had COVID-19 and am now symptom-free, do I still need to get the COVID-19 vaccine?
Yes. How long a person is protected against COVID-19 after recovering from the illness has not yet been determined. It is important to get the vaccine to help keep you protected from being re-infected.

After receiving the COVID-19 vaccine, continue to wear a face mask when you are with other people, stay six feet apart and wash your hands frequently! Speak with your doctor if you have questions about the COVID-19 vaccine.

Please visit your state’s Department of Public Health to learn more about what groups of people will be vaccinated first in your state and how to sign up to receive your vaccination.

In Massachusetts: [COVID-19 vaccination locations for individuals in eligible groups and phases | Mass.gov](#)

For More information about the COVID-19 Vaccines currently being used in the United States, visit the CDC’s COVID-19 vaccine website: [COVID-19 Vaccination | CDC](#)

Source: CDC COVID-19 Vaccine website. The information provided here was current at the time of publication.

V-Safe: an app developed by the CDC to be used on your smartphone to receive text messages and surveys as a personalized “health checker” for people who have received the COVID-19 vaccine. CDC link: [V-safe After Vaccination Health Checker | CDC](#)