

UNDERSTANDING

THE COVID-19 VACCINES

Two COVID-19 vaccines have been authorized by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) for emergency use. As advancements continue in developing vaccines to fight the virus, it's helpful to understand the similarities and differences between the two vaccines developed by Pfizer and Moderna.

Please note:

- Like all vaccines, before being authorized for emergency use, medical researchers tested the safety and effectiveness of these COVID-19 vaccines.
- Researchers studied the mRNA technology used to develop these vaccines for more than a decade.
- Neither vaccine contains a live virus. No vaccine can infect you with COVID-19.





PFIZER-BIONTECH

COVID-19 VACCINE

This vaccine is authorized for emergency use in persons aged 16 years and older.



Two injection doses, **3 weeks or 21 days apart**

Similar other multi-dose vaccines that have been in use for years, such as vaccines for DPT, HPV, and Hepatitis B.



95% effective preventing COVID-19 infection



Ages 16 and older



Full protection starts **one to two weeks after receiving the second dose**





MODERNA

COVID-19 VACCINE

This vaccine is authorized for emergency use in persons aged 18 years and older.



Two injection doses, **4 weeks or 28 days apart**

Similar to other multi-dose vaccines that have been in use for years, such as vaccines for DPT, HPV and Hepatitis B.



Ages 18 and older



94.5% effective **after the second dose**





WHAT TO EXPECT

FROM BOTH VACCINES

The overwhelming majority (85%) of vaccine recipients experience mild to moderate viral symptoms, and 15% get more significant symptoms like fever or chills. These symptoms generally last no more than 24 hours and are typically controlled with over-the-counter medicines.

These symptoms include:

- Pain and/or swelling at the site of the injection
- Fever
- Chills
- Tiredness
- Headache

In most cases, discomfort from fever or pain is normal.

Contact your doctor or healthcare provider:

- If you experience rare or less common side effects, like allergic reactions
- If the redness or tenderness where you got the shot increases after 24 hours
- If your side effects are worrying you or do not seem to be going away after a few days