

# The COVID-19 Vaccines— What You Should Know



## Before You Are Vaccinated

Before you schedule an appointment to receive the vaccine, please talk your healthcare team if you ever had an allergic reaction to any component of a COVID-19 vaccine. You also should talk to your healthcare team if you had a reaction to another vaccine or injectable medication or a severe allergic reaction (e.g., anaphylaxis) to anything else. This would include food, pets, venom, or oral medication allergies. This is *not* a complete list of agents that could cause an allergic reaction.

A healthcare worker will keep an eye on you for at least 15 minutes after you receive the COVID-19 vaccine. The healthcare worker wants to watch you for possible side effects to the vaccine.

*The COVID-19 vaccine takes about 20 seconds to administer.*

## What Is the Difference Between the COVID-19 Vaccines?

Pfizer <sup>1</sup>	Moderna <sup>2</sup>
Requires 2 doses	Requires 2 doses
95.0% effective after second dose	94.5% effective after second dose
Created using messenger ribonucleic acid (mRNA) technology	Created using mRNA technology
Approved for people ages 16 and older	Approved for people ages 18 and older

Information subject to change. Information current as of April 13, 2021.

mRNA stands for messenger ribonucleic acid. mRNA are instructions for your body on how to make protein. If you get infected in the future with the real virus, those cells will remember and fight it the same way.



## Help for People Who Contract COVID-19

What happens if you test positive for COVID-19 before you are vaccinated? There is a treatment your doctor can give you to help reduce the risk of you getting sicker. The treatment is called monoclonal antibody (mAb) treatment. mAb treatment can reduce the amount of the virus that causes COVID-19 in a person's body.

You may be a good candidate for mAb treatment if you:

- Have mild symptoms of COVID-19.
- Tested positive for COVID-19 within the last 10 days.
- Are at risk for getting more serious symptoms.

### Sources:

1. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Information about the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine. Accessed on March 30, 2021. Available at <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/different-vaccines/Pfizer-BioNTech.html>.
2. Moderna COVID-19 Vaccine Overview and Safety. Accessed on March 30, 2021. Available at <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/different-vaccines/Moderna.html>.

# After You Are Vaccinated

## Common Side Effects

At the injection site, you may experience:

- Muscle or joint pain
- Swelling
- Warmth



Other symptoms you may experience:

- Tiredness
- Headache
- Chills
- Fever
- Enlarged lymph nodes

## How Do You Know if You Are Fully Vaccinated?

A person is considered fully vaccinated:

- 2 weeks after their second dose of a two-dose series.

You are *not* fully protected if you still need to get your second dose of the two-dose vaccine. Keep taking preventive steps.

If you test positive for COVID-19 after your first vaccine dose, reschedule your second vaccine dose. Reschedule the second dose until your isolation period is completed and all your symptoms are gone.



Use your cell phone camera on the QR code to link to more COVID-19 vaccine information.

## Ways to Stay Healthy and Help Slow the Spread of COVID-19

- Cover your mouth and nose with a face covering.
- Wash your hands often.
- Practice social distancing by keeping six feet between you and others.
- If you come in close contact with someone with COVID-19, stay home and watch for symptoms. Check with your local public health agency for information on your community's current quarantine guidelines.
- Get tested if you have symptoms of COVID-19 and stay home and away from others.

A vaccinated person may not “feel” sick from COVID-19 but can still be infected and spread the virus to others. For example, if you contract the virus from a friend or family member, you will likely be protected from the virus but could put an unvaccinated person at serious risk. Continue to practice the 3W's:



Wear a mask.



Wash your hands.



Watch your distance.

For more tips to help you and your family cope during the COVID-19 pandemic, visit [www.KidneyCOVIDInfoCenter.com](http://www.KidneyCOVIDInfoCenter.com).

To learn more about the science behind the COVID-19, visit the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention website at [www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/more/fully-vaccinated-people.html](http://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/more/fully-vaccinated-people.html).



**Kidney Community  
Emergency Response**

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