

# Getting to Know the COVID-19 Vaccines

Talk to your  
pharmacist or other  
trusted health care  
professional if you  
have any questions or  
need more information  
about COVID-19  
vaccines.

## The Vaccines Are Safe and Effective

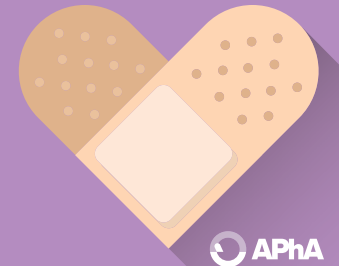
All of the COVID-19 vaccines teach our body how to recognize the virus that causes COVID-19 and how to fight it off. That's how the vaccines help to protect us from severe illness, hospitalization, and death from COVID-19.

Each type of vaccine takes a slightly different approach to teaching our body how to recognize the virus. But they all are safe and effective. And we know they are effective among people of diverse age, sex, race, and ethnicity categories and among people with underlying medical conditions.

Talk to your pharmacist or other trusted health care professional if you have any questions or need more information about COVID-19 vaccines.



[www.pharmacist.com](http://www.pharmacist.com)



 **VaccineConfident**

## There are several types of vaccines available for use in the United States to prevent COVID-19:

- > **Messenger RNA (mRNA) vaccines.** The Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine (COMIRNATY) and the Moderna vaccine (SPIKEVAX) are examples of mRNA vaccines.
- > **Protein subunit vaccines.** The Novavax COVID-19 vaccine is an example of a protein subunit vaccine with an adjuvant. An adjuvant is an ingredient used in some vaccines to help create a stronger immune response in people receiving the vaccine.

Information about COVID-19 vaccines continues to evolve. To see the latest information and recommendations, scan the QR code with your smartphone camera or visit <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/>



## Terms You Should Know

It is helpful to know some of the terms the CDC uses when talking about COVID-19 vaccines.

The initial shots you receive are referred to as the *primary series*. At first, most COVID-19 mRNA vaccines needed two shots administered several weeks apart. With the updated COVID-19 mRNA vaccines, only one dose is needed by most people.

Moderately or severely immunocompromised people may need to get an additional shot to complete the primary series.

You are considered to be *up to date* with your COVID-19 vaccines after you receive the shots in the primary series and your body has time to develop immunity—usually 2 weeks after the last shot.

A *booster shot* is a dose of vaccine administered after the primary series is completed, usually a few months later.

You are considered to be up to date with your COVID-19 vaccines if you have received all currently recommended doses.

## Some Important Points

- > In general, the most common side effects are the same for all of the vaccines. You may have pain, redness, or swelling in the arm where you got the shot. Or you may experience flu-like symptoms such as tiredness, headache, muscle pain, chills, fever, and nausea.
- > If your primary series consists of more than one shot, the side effects after your second shot may be more noticeable than the ones you experienced after your first shot.

