



There are three vaccines currently available in the United States to prevent COVID-19:

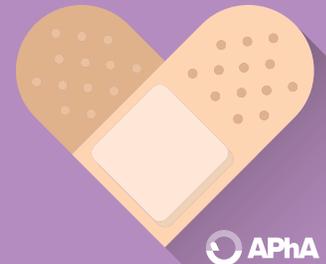
- > The Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine, an mRNA vaccine that requires two doses before you are considered to be fully immunized.
- > The Moderna vaccine, an mRNA vaccine that requires two doses before you are considered to be fully immunized.
- > The Johnson & Johnson/Janssen vaccine, a viral vector vaccine that requires just one dose before you are considered to be fully immunized.

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



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# Getting to Know the COVID-19 Vaccines



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## **Pfizer-BioNTech Vaccine**

The Pfizer-BioNTech mRNA vaccine is the first COVID-19 vaccine in the United States to be fully licensed by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA). It is marketed under the name Comirnaty for the prevention of COVID-19 disease in individuals 16 years of age and older. The vaccine also continues to be available under emergency use authorization for individuals 12 through 15 years of age.

The Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine is currently administered as a two-shot series for most patients. You get an initial shot, and then a second shot 3 weeks later. You are considered to be fully vaccinated 2 weeks after the second shot.

Based on evidence from clinical trials in people 16 years and older, the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine is 95% effective at preventing laboratory-confirmed infection with the virus that causes COVID-19 in people who received two doses and had no evidence of being previously infected. The clinical trials included participants of diverse age, race, and ethnicity categories. The vaccine was shown to be highly effective in all of these groups, as well as among people with underlying medical conditions such as obesity, diabetes, and pulmonary disease.

## **Moderna Vaccine**

The Moderna mRNA vaccine is authorized for use in people who are at least 18 years old.

It is administered as a two-shot series. You get an initial shot, and then a second shot 4 weeks later. You are considered to be fully vaccinated 2 weeks after you get your second shot.

Based on evidence from clinical trials in people 18 years and older, the Moderna vaccine was 94.1% effective at preventing laboratory-confirmed infection with the virus that causes COVID-19 in people who received two doses and had no evidence of being previously infected. The clinical trials included participants of diverse age, race, and ethnicity categories. The vaccine was shown to be highly effective in all of these groups, as well as among people with underlying medical conditions (4% of participants in the clinical trials had two or more high-risk conditions).

## **Johnson & Johnson/Janssen Vaccine**

The Johnson & Johnson/Janssen viral vector vaccine is authorized for use in people who are at least 18 years old.

It is administered as a single shot. You are considered to be fully vaccinated 2 weeks after that shot.

Based on evidence from clinical trials in people 18 years and older, the Johnson & Johnson/Janssen vaccine was 66.3% effective at preventing laboratory-confirmed infection with the virus that causes COVID-19 in people who received the vaccine and had no evidence of being previously infected. The clinical trials had a more racially and ethnically diverse population than the trials for the mRNA vaccines did. The vaccine was equally effective in all of these groups.

## **Important Things to Know**

- > If you received a Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine, you should get that same product for your second shot. If you received a Moderna vaccine, you should get the Moderna vaccine for your second shot.
- > 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 muscle pain, chills, fever, and headache. If you get an mRNA vaccine, the side effects after your second shot may be more intense than the ones you experienced after your first shot.