# Different COVID-19 Vaccines

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/different-vaccines.html>

Updated Aug. 19, 2021

**NOTICE:** CDC continues to recommend the use of the newly FDA-approved Pfizer-BioNTech (COMIRNATY) COVID-19 Vaccine for people 16 years and older, as one of the recommended vaccines to protect against COVID-19. CDC continues to recommend the vaccine under an emergency use authorization (EUA) for adolescents 12 through 15 years old, as well as an additional mRNA dose for moderately to severely immunocompromised people**.**

Cases of myocarditis and pericarditis in adolescents and young adults have been reported more often after getting the second dose than after the first dose of one of the two mRNA COVID-19 vaccines, Pfizer-BioNTech or Moderna. **These reports are rare and the known and potential benefits of COVID-19 vaccination outweigh the known and potential risks, including the possible risk of myocarditis or pericarditis**.

Authorized and Recommended Vaccines

Currently, three vaccines are authorized and recommended in the United States to prevent COVID-19:

Pfizer-BioNTech  
Moderna  
Johnson & Johnson / Janssen

## Different COVID-19 Vaccines

Vaccines are now widely available. In most cases, you do need an appointment. Do not wait for a specific brand. Learn how to find a COVID-19 vaccine so you can get it as soon as you can at https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/How-Do-I-Get-a-COVID-19-Vaccine.html

All currently authorized and recommended COVID-19 vaccines:

* are safe,
* are effective, and
* reduce your risk of severe illness.

CDC does not recommend one vaccine over another.

People with moderately to severely compromised immune systems should receive an additional dose of mRNA COVID-19 vaccine after the initial 2 doses.

Learn more about Booster Shots at https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/booster-shot.html

**Vaccine Brand Name:**Pfizer-BioNTech

**Who Can Get this Vaccine**: People 12 years and older

**How Many Shots You Will Need: 2 shots**given 3 weeks (21 days) apart

**When Are You Fully Vaccinated?**2 weeks after your second shot

**Vaccine Brand Name:**Moderna

**Who Can Get this Vaccine:**People 18 years and older

**How Many Shots You Will Need: 2 shots** given 4 weeks (28 days) apart

**When Are You Fully Vaccinated?**2 weeks after your second shot

**Vaccine Brand Name:**Johnson & Johnson’s Janssen

**Who Can Get this Vaccine**: People 18 years and older

**How Many Shots You Will Need: 1 shot**

**When Are You Fully Vaccinated?**2 weeks after your shot

If you have had a severe allergic reaction (anaphylaxis) or an immediate allergic reaction to any ingredient in the vaccine you are scheduled to receive, you should not get that vaccine. If you have been instructed not to get one type of COVID-19 vaccine, you may still be able to get another type. Learn more information for people with allergies at https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/recommendations/specific-groups/allergies.html

For vaccines requiring 2 shots, you should get your second shot as close to the recommended 3-week or 4-week interval as possible. However, your second shot may be given up to 6 weeks (42 days) after the first dose, if necessary.

## Vaccine Types

* Understanding How COVID-19 Vaccines Work  
  Learn how the body fights infection and how COVID-19 vaccines protect people by producing immunity at https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/different-vaccines/how-they-work.html?CDC\_AA\_refVal=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.cdc.gov%2Fcoronavirus%2F2019-ncov%2Fvaccines%2Fabout-vaccines%2Fhow-they-work.html

Also see the different types of COVID-19 vaccines that currently are available or are undergoing large-scale (Phase 3) clinical trials in the United States.​

* COVID-19 mRNA Vaccines  
  Information about mRNA vaccines generally and COVID-19 vaccines that use this new technology specifically is available at <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/different-vaccines/mrna.html>
* Viral Vector COVID-19 Vaccines  
  Information about viral vector vaccines generally and COVID-19 vaccines that use this new technology specifically is available at https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/different-vaccines/viralvector.html

## Vaccines in Phase 3 Clinical Trials

Large-scale (Phase 3) clinical trials are in progress or being planned for COVID-19 vaccines in the United States. To learn more about U.S. COVID-19 vaccine clinical trials, including vaccines in earlier stages of development, by visiting clinicaltrials.gov.