

# COVID-19 VACCINES available for use in the United States



- There are three COVID-19 vaccines currently available for use in the United States. All three vaccines will greatly reduce your chances of getting COVID-19 and will ensure that if you do get the virus, you will have only mild symptoms or none at all.
- The best vaccine for you is the one you can get first.
- We are still learning how well the vaccines prevent the spread of COVID-19 and how long protection from the vaccine lasts. After you are vaccinated, it is important that you continue to wear a mask, watch your distance and wash your hands often until we can get more people vaccinated.

Vaccine Manufacturer	Pfizer-BioNTech	Moderna	Johnson & Johnson (Janssen)
<b>How it works</b>	Delivers genetic material (mRNA) that tells the body how to produce the coronavirus spike protein. The immune system reacts to the spike protein and builds a defense against it.	Delivers genetic material (mRNA) that tells the body how to produce the coronavirus spike protein. The immune system reacts to the spike protein and builds a defense against it.	Uses a virus (adenovirus) that can't replicate or harm the body to carry information to cells about how to produce the coronavirus spike protein. The immune system reacts to the spike protein and builds a defense against it.
<b>Who can get this vaccine?<sup>1</sup></b>	People <b>16 years</b> of age and older	People <b>18 years</b> of age and older	People <b>18 years</b> of age and older
<b>How many doses are needed?</b>	<b>Two doses</b> , ideally 21 days apart	<b>Two doses</b> , ideally 28 days apart	<b>One dose</b>
<b>When do I get my second dose?</b>	<b>21 days after the first dose</b> The second dose can be given up to 4 days earlier than the recommended date or up to 42 days after the first dose and still be considered valid. <sup>2</sup>	<b>28 days after the first dose</b> The second dose can be given up to 4 days earlier than the recommended date or up to 42 days after the first dose and still be considered valid. <sup>2</sup>	<b>Not applicable</b>
<b>When will I be fully protected?</b>	<b>14 days</b> after your second dose	<b>14 days</b> after your second dose	<b>14 days</b> after you get the vaccine
<b>Common side effects after vaccine</b>	<b>Injection site reactions:</b> pain, redness of the skin and swelling  <b>General side effects:</b> tiredness, headache, muscle pain, chills, joint pain, fever, nausea, swollen lymph nodes	<b>Injection site reactions:</b> pain, tenderness and swelling of the lymph nodes in the same arm of the injection, swelling, and redness  <b>General side effects:</b> fatigue, headache, muscle pain, joint pain, chills, nausea and vomiting, and fever	<b>Injection site reactions:</b> pain, redness of the skin and swelling  <b>General side effects:</b> headache, feeling very tired, muscle aches, nausea, and fever
<b>What to do if I don't feel well?</b>	Remember to sign up for <a href="#">v-safe</a> , where you can use your smartphone to tell CDC about any side effects after getting a COVID-19 vaccine.  To reduce pain and discomfort where you got the shot, apply a clean, cool, wet washcloth over the area and use or exercise your arm. To reduce discomfort from fever, drink plenty of fluids, dress lightly and rest. If you have persistent pain or other discomfort, talk to your doctor about taking an over-the-counter medicine, such as ibuprofen or acetaminophen.  In most cases, discomfort from fever or arm pain or swelling where you got the shot will not last more than a few days after a COVID-19 vaccine dose. Contact your doctor or healthcare provider if the redness or tenderness where you got the shot increases after 24 hours or if your side effects are worrying you or do not seem to be going away after a few days.		



Footnotes:

1. Persons with a history of severe allergic reaction (e.g., anaphylaxis) or immediate allergic reaction to a previous dose of COVID-19 vaccine or who have a known (diagnosed) allergy to a component of a vaccine, should not get the vaccine. Talk to your healthcare provider to discuss your options.
2. If the second dose of a two-dose vaccine is administered outside of this timeframe, consult with your healthcare provider.

Learn more at [Vaccinate.Virginia.gov](https://www.vaccinatevirginia.gov) or call 1-877-VAX-IN-VA.

