

COVID-19 vaccines available in the U.S.



COVID-19 vaccines will **greatly reduce your chances of getting COVID-19** and becoming severely ill, hospitalized or dying. We are still learning how long protection from these vaccines last.

	Pfizer-BioNTech	Moderna	Johnson & Johnson (Janssen)
How it works	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 harmless virus to teach your body how to make the coronavirus spike protein. Your immune system then reacts to the protein and builds a defense against it.
How many shots are needed?	Two shots , ideally 21 days apart	Two shots , ideally 28 days apart	One shot
When will I be considered fully vaccinated?	14 days after your second shot	14 days after your second shot	14 days after you get the shot
Common side effects after vaccine	<p>Injection site reactions: pain, swelling, redness</p> <p>General side effects: tiredness, headache, muscle pain, chills, fever, nausea, joint pain, swollen lymph nodes</p>	<p>Injection site reactions: pain, swelling, redness</p> <p>General side effects: tiredness, headache, muscle pain, chills, fever, nausea, joint pain, swollen lymph nodes</p>	<p>Injection site reactions: pain, swelling, redness</p> <p>General side effects: tiredness, headache, muscle pain, nausea, fever</p>
What should I do if I feel sick after I get my shots?	Put a clean, cool, wet cloth on your arm where you got your shot to help with pain. Use or exercise your arm. If you have a fever, drink lots of fluids, dress lightly and rest. If you are still in pain after 24 hours, talk to your doctor about taking Tylenol or other medicine you can buy without a prescription. Sign up for v-safe , where you can use your smartphone to tell CDC about any side effects after getting a COVID-19 vaccine. 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 shot. 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.		
What are rare complications?	<p>Public health agencies are investigating these rare reports.</p> <p>Possible complications with getting the Pfizer-BioNTech or Moderna vaccines include heart inflammation called myocarditis and pericarditis. For the Johnson & Johnson vaccine, possible complications include blood clots with low platelets and a nervous system disorder called Guillain-Barré syndrome. If you have questions about these conditions, talk with your healthcare provider or call 877-VAX-IN-VA (877-829-4682). For additional information, please visit Safety of COVID-19 Vaccines (cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/safety/safety-of-vaccines.html).</p>		

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Learn more at Virginia Department of Health - Patient Education
[\(vdh.virginia.gov/covid-19-vaccine/patient-education/\)](https://vdh.virginia.gov/covid-19-vaccine/patient-education/)

