



ATU LOCAL 1181-1061

## COVID-19 VACCINE UPDATE

1/26/2021

Based upon CDC information, the COVID vaccine is deemed to be safe as outlined below:

### COVID-19: Vaccines

#### Pfizer and Moderna Vaccines Authorized for Emergency Use

The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has authorized the Pfizer-BioNTech and Moderna COVID-19 vaccines for emergency use.

In clinical trials, both the Pfizer and Moderna vaccines were shown to be safe and greater than 94% effective at preventing symptoms and decreasing severe COVID-19 infection among study volunteers.

The Moderna and Pfizer vaccines work by teaching the body to create an immune response for a virus that is not present in the body. [Learn more about the mechanics of this type of vaccine.](#)

The Pfizer and Moderna vaccines each require two doses, through shots in the arm, at least 21 days (Pfizer) or 28 days (Moderna) apart.

#### Safety

The FDA is overseeing the approval process for vaccines. It has released [safety and efficacy guidelines for companies working on a vaccine](#). These guidelines make clear that the COVID-19 vaccines under development and in trials must follow the same rigorous safety rules as any other new vaccine.

The FDA will only grant Emergency Use Authorization if it decides the benefits of a vaccine outweigh its potential risks. Officials will continue monitoring the safety of vaccines after they are made available.

- [CDC: Ensuring the Safety of COVID-19 Vaccines](#)

#### Side Effects

Both vaccines have shown to have mild to moderate side effects, including soreness or swelling on the arm where you got the shot, headache, body aches, tiredness and fever. Side effects usually go away within two to three days, are more common after the second dose and are less common in older adults. The vaccine cannot give you COVID-19.

It is uncommon for people to experience severe allergic reaction to the vaccine. If you have had an allergic reaction to other vaccines or injectable medicines in the past, or if you think you may be allergic to ingredients in the COVID-19 vaccine, talk to your health care provider before getting vaccinated.

#### mRNA Vaccines

The Pfizer and Moderna vaccines are both messenger RNA (mRNA) vaccines. mRNA are molecules that provide instructions. They do not contain the virus that causes COVID-19.

mRNA vaccines teach our cells how to create an immune response so that the body knows how to fight the virus if it is later exposed to the virus. Once your body learns how to create the immune response, it breaks down and gets rid of the mRNA.

<https://www.cdc.gov/homepage/images/cdc-in-action/about-cdc.jpg>

Facts about COVID-19 mRNA Vaccines

1. **They cannot give someone COVID-19.**
2. mRNA vaccines do not use the live virus that causes COVID-19.
3. **They do not affect or interact with our DNA in any way.**
4. mRNA never enters the nucleus of the cell, which is where our DNA (genetic material) is kept.
5. The cell breaks down and gets rid of the mRNA soon after it is finished using the instructions.