

COVID-19 VACCINE – FAQ's

What is the COVID-19 vaccine and why should I get it?

- It is a vaccine that may protect you from getting COVID-19. It may also protect against severe disease and death. It helps protect yourself and others from COVID-19.

Which COVID-19 vaccines are available right now? What's the main difference?

- The US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has given Emergency Use Authorization to three different vaccines. The different vaccines are the Pfizer-BioNTech, Moderna and Johnson & Johnson/Janssen vaccine. The Pfizer-BioNTech and Moderna vaccines require 2 doses (separate injections). The Johnson/Janssen vaccine requires one dose (injection).

How is the vaccine given and what are some common side effects?

- The injection is given into the muscle on the upper arm.
- Potential side effects may include pain/tenderness at the injection site as well as swelling, and/or redness. Other symptoms may include feeling tired, headache, body aches (including muscle and/or joint pain), chills, nausea/vomiting, and/or fever. This is more likely to occur after the second dose with the vaccines that require 2 doses.

Why do I need a second dose?

- The first dose starts building protection; however, the second dose is required to receive the vaccine's maximum protection from the virus.

Can I get the second dose of the COVID-19 vaccine earlier?

- The two doses of the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine should be given 21 days apart. The two doses of the Moderna COVID-19 vaccine should be given 28 days apart. It is recommended to receive the second dose as close to the suggested schedule as possible. However, the second dose can be given up to 4 days earlier than the recommended date if needed (17 days or more after first dose).

Do I need a booster dose?

- Individuals with a weakened immune system who received the Pfizer-BioNTech or Moderna vaccine are recommended to get a third dose of the vaccine at least 28 days after the second dose.
- It is recommended that all recipients of the Pfizer-BioNTech and Moderna vaccine receive a booster dose starting 8 months after the second dose. These doses should be available in late September 2021.

Can I get the COVID-19 vaccine with other vaccines?

- The Pfizer-BioNTech and Moderna COVID-19 vaccines are currently recommended to be administered alone. You should wait a minimum of 14 days before or after other vaccines.

Should I get the vaccine if I already had COVID-19 and recovered?

- The CDC is recommending that you should receive the vaccine even if you have already recovered from COVID-19. This is being recommended because it is possible to get COVID-19 again.

Can I get COVID-19 from the vaccine?

- No, neither of the vaccines contain any live virus.

Do I have to pay for the COVID-19 vaccine?

- No, the COVID-19 vaccine will be available to everyone for free.

Where can I find the most up to date information on COVID-19 & vaccination locations?

- Your Primary Care Provider is your Medical Home and a great source of information. You can also find vaccination clinics and additional information on the Florida COVID-19 Response website at <https://floridahealthcovid19.gov/covid-19-vaccines-in-florida/>.

Key Differences & Similarities between the two COVID-19 Vaccines

	Pfizer-BioNTech	Moderna	Johnson & Johnson/Janssen
# of shot & schedule	2 shots, 21 days apart	2 shots, 28 days apart	1 shot
Age groups	12 years of age and older	18 years of age and older	18 years of age and older
Common side effects	<u>Injection site reactions:</u> pain, tenderness, swelling, redness <u>General side effects:</u> tiredness, headache, muscle pain, chills, nausea, fever		

This information is a summary from the CDC and FDA which was last updated August 18, 2021.