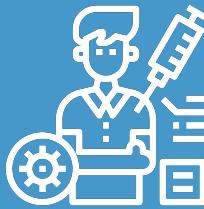


# FAQ ABOUT THE PFIZER & MODERNA COVID-19 VACCINES



## BENEFITS OF VACCINATION

### HOW EFFECTIVE ARE THE VACCINES?

- Very! The initial trials of the Moderna and Pfizer vaccines showed that 94%-95% of people who received the vaccine were protected against COVID-19.

### HOW LONG DOES IT TAKE FOR THE VACCINE TO WORK?

- There is some protection 10-14 days after the first dose, but full protection doesn't take place until 10-14 days after the second dose.

### DOES THE VACCINE MAKE YOU LESS LIKELY TO CARRY COVID-19 AND SPREAD IT TO OTHERS?

- We don't know yet. Even after receiving the vaccine, you should continue basic precautions: Wear a mask, wash your hands, maintain physical distance, and avoid gatherings.

### IF I'VE HAD COVID-19, SHOULD I STILL GET THE VACCINE?

- Yes, you should! We do not know yet how long immunity to COVID-19 lasts. The CDC recommends getting vaccinated starting 90 days after recovering from COVID-19.

## SAFETY OF THE VACCINE

### HOW SAFE ARE THE VACCINES?

- They are very safe! However, it is important to expect some side effects. About half of people will have side effects after the vaccine doses. These are more common after the second dose. Although these side effects can be uncomfortable, they don't last long and usually get better after 1 day. They include:
  - Pain and/or swelling in the arm where you got the shot
  - Fever or chills
  - Fatigue
  - Headache

### HOW ABOUT SEVERE REACTIONS?

- Severe reactions include trouble breathing or anaphylaxis.
- Severe reactions are rare, occurring in 1 in 100,000 people. (In comparison, 11 in 100,000 die in car accidents each year!)
- If you have had severe allergic reactions to vaccines in the past, you will be observed longer in the vaccine clinic (30 vs 15 minutes).
- Most of the severe allergic reactions occur in the first 15 minutes after the vaccine.

### WHAT CAN I DO TO REDUCE THESE SIDE EFFECTS?

- Taking ibuprofen or acetaminophen for the pain in the arm.
- Apply a clean, cool, wet washcloth over the area where you received the shot.
- Use or exercise your arm.
- Drink plenty of fluids.
- Dress lightly.

### WHAT ABOUT PREGNANT WOMEN, YOUNG CHILDREN, OR CANCER PATIENTS?

- The vaccine has not been tested specifically in those groups.
- However, the risk of having severe COVID-19 while pregnant or if you have cancer is significant, and pregnant women and cancer patients should get the vaccine.
- The vaccine is currently under study in children under 16 but has not yet been approved for use.