



COVID-19 Vaccines

Millions of Americans have been vaccinated to protect themselves against COVID-19. Currently, three vaccines are authorized and recommended to prevent COVID-19 in the United States. All three vaccines are extraordinary effective at protecting you from the virus. If you're wondering which vaccine is best for you, the short answer is **whichever one is available to you**.

WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE VACCINES?

	PFIZER-BIONTECH	MODERNA	JOHNSON & JOHNSON
TYPE	mRNA	mRNA	Viral Vector (not live virus)
DOSES	2	2	1
TIME BETWEEN DOSES	3 weeks	4 weeks	n/a
TIME TO IMMUNITY	2 weeks after 2nd dose	2 weeks after 2nd dose	Some protection at 2 weeks ; Max protection at 4 weeks
ELIGIBLE AGES	≥ 16 years	≥ 18 years	≥ 18 years
COMMON SIDE EFFECTS (including soreness and swelling at injection site; fatigue; fever; muscle aches)	Short-lived and more common after second dose	Short-lived and more common after second dose	Short-lived and relatively mild
ADDITIONAL CONSIDERATIONS	People who are immunocompromised or on immunosuppression therapy should talk to their health care provider about the right timing to receive a COVID-19 vaccine.		

HOW EFFECTIVE IS EACH VACCINE?

Based on each vaccine manufacturer's reported data as of February 2021, all three vaccines are highly effective at preventing COVID-19-related severe infections and deaths. Even though the numbers vary, the effectiveness of each vaccine cannot be compared head to head. That's because of differences in how and when each clinical trial was done. One change that could have made a big impact was the emergence of new virus variants.

	PFIZER-BIONTECH	MODERNA	JOHNSON & JOHNSON
AGAINST DEATH	100% effective	100% effective	100% effective
AGAINST SEVERE INFECTIONS	75% effective	100% effective	85% effective
AGAINST ALL INFECTIONS	95% effective	94.5% effective	72% effective

All percentages are calculated based on a relatively small number of events and should be viewed as estimates.



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