

COVID-19 Vaccine Facts



MLK Community Healthcare



Which vaccine is right for me?

The right vaccine is the one that is available to you.

All of the available vaccines are **EXTREMELY EFFECTIVE** against death from COVID-19, severe disease and hospitalizations.

All of them will help **PREVENT** you from getting sick with COVID-19.



Why does the J&J vaccine require 1 dose when Pfizer and Moderna require 2?

Each of these vaccines were designed to work in different ways and they are different formulas.



How do the COVID-19 vaccines currently available work?

PFIZER and MODERNA

These vaccines use mRNA, which is like instructions or a road map for your body to make protective antibodies against the spike protein of the virus.

These vaccines do not contain any killed or live virus. **They cannot change human DNA.**

J&J (JANSSEN VACCINE)

This is a viral vector vaccine. This means that a gene for the COVID-19 spike protein was added onto a different harmless virus that does not replicate or cause disease in humans.

This virus is used to show your body what the spike protein looks like and allow it to recognize COVID-19 and fight against it when you get exposed in the future. **This vaccine cannot give you COVID-19.**



I recently had COVID-19, how long do I have to wait to get a vaccine?

YOU CAN GO TO GET YOUR VACCINE once you have recovered and are out of isolation

at least **10 days** have passed since your symptoms started

you have been fever free for at least **72 hours** without fever reducing medications*

If you had **no symptoms**, then you can get your vaccine **10 days** after your positive test.

*Tylenol (acetaminophen), Advil (ibuprofen), Aleve (naproxen)



Does the vaccine hurt?

It is **normal** to feel a pinch or stinging in the arm when the medication is being injected. Some, but not all people have side effects after the vaccine.



What medicine can I take?

Tylenol (acetaminophen) as needed after you get the vaccine. **Taking acetaminophen, ibuprofen, or naproxen before the vaccine is not recommended**, unless you are already on these medications regularly for a medical condition.



What are the side effects?

It's **common** to get pain and swelling in the arm where you got the shot. You may also have fevers, chills, headache, or feel more tired than usual. Some people get body aches.

Side effects usually last **2 days or less**. The soreness in the arm where you received the vaccine may last a little longer.

Vaccine Efficacy¹

Vaccine	Symptomatic COVID-19		Severe COVID-19	Hospitalization or Death from COVID-19		
Johnson & Johnson (Janssen)	66.3% globally	72% in the US	85% globally	Hospitalization: 93% 14 days after vaccine 100% after 28 days 100%² death		
Pfizer	95% after 2 doses	52.4% (after 1 dose)	100%	100%³		
Moderna	95% after 2 doses		100%	100%		

1. These numbers should not be directly compared against each other because the vaccines were tested during different time periods, in different areas of the world, and the viral variants circulating at the time were different (the virus is constantly mutating). So, it is like comparing apples to oranges.
 2. There were no deaths from COVID-19 in the vaccine group, 7 patients died from COVID-19 in the placebo group.
 3. The studies for the Pfizer vaccine were not designed to look at the differences between hospitalizations and deaths (all-cause mortality was reported, not just COVID-19 related deaths)



Why are some vaccines available when others are not?

The Government buys the vaccines and sends them out to hospitals, clinics, and other sites to be given to patients.

We do not have control over what supply of vaccine we get each shipment.

We get a supply and are in charge of offering it and making sure it is given to people who are interested.



How frequent are we going to get the vaccine or is this a one-time thing?

Right now vaccine manufacturers are investigating whether and how often future booster doses would be needed. *The flu vaccine is a good example: the flu virus is constantly mutating and we need to get a yearly flu shot to protect ourselves. The COVID vaccine may have a similar requirement.*

Sources

- <https://www.idsociety.org/covid-19-real-time-learning-network/vaccines/johnson--johnson-janssen-covid-19-vaccine/>
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