

# COVID-19 Vaccine Fact Sheet



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## What you should know

COVID-19 has taken its toll, and we know that certain populations have been more severely impacted, including the elderly and those with underlying health conditions, such as diabetes, heart conditions and obesity.

Health and social inequities have also put many people from racial and ethnic [minority groups](#) at increased risk of getting sick and dying from COVID-19.

A vaccine is now available, but in limited supply. The Indiana Department of Health is sharing updates on the vaccine at [ourshot.in.gov](#) to make sure that the vaccine is prioritized for those who need it most. The two vaccines available now are called mRNA that teaches our cells how to make a protein—or even just a piece of a protein—that triggers an immune response inside our bodies. It does not change a person’s DNA or cause infertility.

The vaccine became available so quickly because it builds on work already done over the last decade to prevent other similar viruses. Every vaccine must pass several tests to make sure it is safe and effective before it is released. The vaccine does not contain any live virus, which means it can’t cause COVID-19. Thousands of people from all populations have tested the vaccine. Side effects that were reported by Pfizer include headache (2%) and fatigue (4%). Vaccine is not available for children because it is still being studied in those groups. Pregnant women should consult with their healthcare providers.

Getting the COVID-19 vaccine can protect you and the people you love from the disease. And it will be available at no cost to you.

### Participant Diversity

Approximately **42%** of overall and **30%** of U.S. study participants have diverse

Participants	Overall study	U.S. only
Asian	4.5%	5.5%
Black	10.0%	10.1%
Hispanic/Latinx	26.1%	13.1%
Native American	0.8%	1.0%
Ages 56 to 85	40.9%	45.4%

SOURCE: <https://www.pfizer.com/science/coronavirus/vaccine>

## About the trials

In a clinical vaccine trial, thousands of diverse participants receive specific treatment. [Pfizer’s](#) vaccine trials had more than 43,000 participants. [Moderna](#) had 30,000 in its phase 3 trial. The researchers determine the safety of the vaccine and how well it works by measuring how the study participants respond. In this case, the outcome was immunity to COVID-19. They also watch for side effects. Each vaccine went through multiple phases of testing before it was released to make sure it was safe and effective.

## About the approval process

After all phases of testing are completed, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) reviews the research and decides whether to authorize the COVID-19 vaccine for emergency use. The FDA looks at how well the vaccine works, or its effectiveness, and at reported side effects. After FDA authorizes use of a vaccine, it is made available only to the groups for which it was approved. Researchers, including the CDC, continue to study the vaccine under real-world conditions and continue to check for safety.

## Fast Facts

- The vaccine is at least **94%** effective at preventing COVID-19
- Few side effects were reported, but included headache, fatigue and soreness at injection site.
- It is a two-part vaccine, so you must get a second dose of the same vaccine (ex. Pfizer after 21 days or Moderna after 28 days)
- Vaccine has approval from FDA, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and Indiana Department of Health
- Find out more at [ourshot.in.gov](#)