



# What You Need to Know About the **COVID-19 Vaccines**

**There is a lot of information going around about the COVID-19 vaccines. Here's what you need to know.**

## **Are there two vaccines?**

There are two two-dose vaccines that have been given emergency use authorization by the Food and Drug Administration at the time of this writing: the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine and the Moderna vaccine. The vaccines differ in some ways (namely, how they must be shipped), but they are fundamentally the same.

## **What's in the COVID-19 vaccines?**

Both vaccines that are authorized for use are messenger RNA (mRNA) vaccines. mRNA vaccines teach your cells how to make a protein—or even just a piece of a protein—that triggers an immune response, and then antibodies, inside your body to protect you from getting infected if you're exposed to the real virus.

## **Are they safe?**

Yes, mRNA vaccines have been held to the same [rigorous safety and effectiveness standards](#) as all other types of vaccines in the United States.

## **Are there side effects from receiving a COVID-19 vaccine?**

There is a chance you may experience mild side effects after taking the COVID-19 vaccine. This is a normal part of the process and simply means the vaccine is working. Some of the symptoms include:

- Pain, redness or swelling near where the shot was administered
- Fatigue
- Joint pain
- Chills
- Headache
- Fever

Contact your doctor if your symptoms worsen or persist after a couple of days.

## **When can I get vaccinated?**

There is currently a limited supply of the vaccines. As such, the first wave of vaccines will go to frontline health workers and members of senior living facilities. It's currently unclear how soon vaccines will be made available to the general public.

