

## COVID-19 VACCINE FAQ

Vaccines have the potential to control and eliminate the spread of COVID-19 in our communities. These vaccines will only work if enough people roll up their sleeves to get vaccinated. If you have questions about vaccine safety, effectiveness or availability, Sanford OccMed has the answers.

### Which vaccines are available?

The Pfizer vaccine received full FDA approval from the Food and Drug Administration (FDA). This vaccine requires two doses given 21 days apart. The Moderna vaccine received EUA from the Food and Drug Administration (FDA). This vaccine requires two doses given 28 days apart. The Johnson & Johnson vaccine received EUA from the FDA. This vaccine is 1 dose.

### What is an Emergency Use Authorization?

During a public health emergency, the FDA can use its authority to allow the use of unapproved medical products when certain conditions are met. The pandemic meets these conditions. Declaring an EUA allows a vaccine to be distributed before it gets full approval. EUA is only granted if research data shows the product's safety and effectiveness on patients enrolled in Phase 3 clinical trials. The data is reviewed by independent committees at the FDA and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

### How many doses will be available?

Each state will be allocated weekly shipments of the vaccines. The amount of doses each state gets depends on its population.

### How did Sanford Health decide to recommend these vaccines?

Sanford Health infectious disease and immunization experts reviewed the Phase 3 clinical trial data with care and concluded these vaccines are safe and effective.

### How many shots of the COVID-19 vaccine are needed?

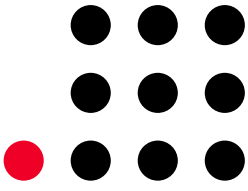
Both the Pfizer and Moderna vaccines require two shots. The Johnson & Johnson vaccine requires 1 dose.

### What happens if I don't get the second dose of the vaccine?

If you do not receive the second dose, you may not develop full immunity. You need the second dose to achieve 95% efficacy against hospitalization and death.

### Can I still contract COVID-19 between getting the two doses of a vaccine?

Yes. The first dose starts to build protection. A second dose is needed to achieve 95% efficacy. You must continue to wear a mask, wash your hands and social distance.



### **Is the vaccine safe and effective?**

The FDA and CDC would not grant EUA to a vaccine unless they were convinced it was safe.

The Pfizer, Moderna and Johnson & Johnson vaccines are shown to be very effective against hospitalization and death in the fight against COVID-19.

### **Why is this COVID-19 vaccine able to be approved so quickly compared to other vaccines?**

There are several reasons for this:

- Scientists had completed years of research on a coronavirus vaccine for SARS-CoV-1 (2002) and MERS-CoV (2011)
- Rapid discovery of the SARS-CoV-2 viral genome sequence allowed rapid creation of vaccines with minor changes to the previous coronavirus vaccine
- All three phases of clinical trials were completed with results reviewed live by the FDA
- Vaccines were manufactured before approval, allowing quick shipment once they received EUA
- All these steps were done at the same time as much as possible to allow for quick vaccine availability

### **What are the FDA and CDC doing to track the safety of the vaccine?**

The safety of the vaccine will be monitored through VAERS (Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System) as with all other vaccines. A new v-safe program has been developed by the FDA and CDC to monitor the vaccine through a smartphone-based tool. You'll learn more about how to enroll in v-safe once you get your vaccine.

### **If I get the vaccine, do I still have to wear a mask?**

Due to a resurgence of COVID-19 variants, the CDC now recommends that in closed areas, even vaccinated individuals need to wear a mask indoors in public, if you are in an area of substantial or high transmission, socially distance and wash their hands frequently.

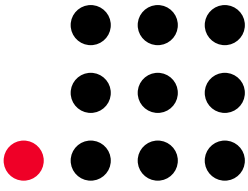
### **How much will the vaccine cost?**

The COVID-19 vaccines will be distributed free of charge. Patients may be charged an administration fee.

### **Are there any side effects from the vaccine?**

Side effects are a sign that the vaccine is working. During the clinical trials, vaccine recipients experienced pain at the injection site, fatigue, fever, chills, body aches or headaches after the first and second dose. These symptoms were mild to moderate and lasted 24 to 48 hours.

If you develop soreness, warmth, redness, swelling or tenderness at the injection site, apply a cold compress to the area and take an over-the-counter pain reliever (Tylenol, Advil) if needed.



### **Should I go to work if I develop side effects from the vaccine?**

You should stay home if you develop a fever at any time. If your symptoms from the vaccine last longer than 48 hours, call your primary care physician.

### **I had COVID-19 and recovered. Will I still need to get the vaccine?**

Yes, there is the possibility of reinfection and we highly encourage you to get the vaccine. However, because the infection may provide you immunity for the first 90 days after the infection, you may choose to wait the 90 days to get your vaccine.

### **If I received another vaccine recently, do I need to wait to get the COVID-19 vaccine?**

No, you may now receive the COVID-19 vaccine at anytime with any other vaccine. There is no cross reaction of vaccines.

### **If I have received COVID-19 monoclonal antibody therapy, do I need to wait before getting the COVID-19 vaccine?**

Yes, if you receive the COVID-19 monoclonal antibody therapy, you must wait 90 days from the treatment date to get the COVID-19 vaccine.

### **Will the COVID-19 vaccine cause me to test positive on a COVID-19 viral test?**

No, the current vaccines will not cause you to test positive on COVID-19 viral tests. You may test positive on COVID-19 antibody tests.

### **Can I get the flu shot and the COVID-19 vaccine at the same time?**

Yes, there is no blunting or cross reaction between the two vaccines.

### **What is the youngest age people can get the COVID-19 vaccine?**

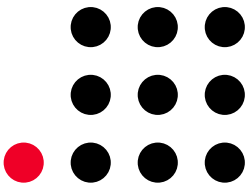
The Pfizer vaccine is only for those ages 12 or older. The Moderna and the Johnson & Johnson vaccines are for those ages 18 or older.

### **Can pregnant or breastfeeding women get the vaccine?**

Yes, the benefit of the mother's immune status to COVID-19 has been found to be transmitted to the fetus or infant in pregnant and breastfeeding women.

### **Is the vaccine safe for those with autoimmune conditions?**

The American College of Rheumatology COVID-19 Vaccine Clinical Guidance recommends that people with autoimmune and inflammatory rheumatic disease (which includes lupus) get the vaccine unless they have an allergy to an ingredient in the vaccine.



**Are there any high-risk medical conditions that may prevent a person from receiving the vaccine?**

See your primary care provider before getting the vaccine if you have:

- An acute illness or fever
- A bleeding disorder or are on anticoagulants
- A compromised immune system from a disease or medication
- A history of severe allergic reactions to another vaccine or injectable medicine