

# Pfizer BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine

UPDATED MAY 21, 2021

## General Information

**Manufacturer:** Pfizer, Inc., and BioNTech

**Number of Shots:** 2 shots, 21 days apart

**How Given:** Shot in the muscle of the upper arm

**Does NOT Contain:** Eggs, preservatives, latex

### WHO SHOULD GET THE PFIZER COVID-19 VACCINE?

The Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine is recommended for people aged 12 years and older.

### WHO SHOULD NOT GET THE PFIZER COVID-19 VACCINE?

You should not get the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine if you have had an allergic reaction to any ingredient in this vaccine listed here: mRNA, lipids ((4-hydroxybutyl)azanediyl)bis(hexane-6,1-diyl)bis(2-hexyldecanoate), 2 [(polyethylene glycol)-2000]-N,N-ditetradecylacetamide, 1,2-Distearoyl-sn-glycero-3- phosphocholine, and cholesterol), potassium chloride, monobasic potassium phosphate, sodium chloride, dibasic sodium phosphate dihydrate, and sucrose.

**If you had a severe or immediate allergic reaction after getting the first dose of an mRNA COVID-19 vaccine, you should not get a second dose of either of the mRNA COVID-19 vaccines.**

### WILL THE PFIZER COVID-19 VACCINE GIVE ME COVID-19?

No. The Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine does not contain SARS-CoV-2 and cannot give you COVID-19.

### POSSIBLE SIDE EFFECTS

*These side effects usually start within a day or two of getting the vaccine and might affect your ability to do daily activities, but they should go away in a few days.*

In the arm where you got the shot: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Pain</li><li>• Redness</li><li>• Swelling</li></ul>	You may feel: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Tired</li><li>• Headache</li><li>• Muscle pain</li><li>• Chills</li><li>• Fever</li><li>• Nausea</li></ul>
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## HOW WELL THE VACCINE WORKS

- Based on evidence from clinical trials in people aged 16 years and older, the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine was 95% effective at preventing COVID-19 illness in people who have not had it before.
- In clinical trials, the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine was also highly effective at preventing COVID-19 illness in adolescents aged 12–15 years, and the immune response in people aged 12–15 years was at least as strong as the immune response in people aged 16–25 years.
- CDC will continue to provide updates as we learn more about how well the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine works in real-world conditions.

## POTENTIAL ADVERSE REACTIONS

Since April 2021, increased cases of myocarditis and pericarditis have been reported in the United States after mRNA COVID-19 vaccination (Pfizer-BioNTech and Moderna), particularly in adolescents and young adults. In most cases, patients who presented for medical care have responded well to medications and rest and had prompt improvement of symptoms. Reported cases have occurred predominantly in male adolescents and young adults 16 years of age and older. Onset was typically within several days after mRNA COVID-19 vaccination, and cases have occurred more often after the second dose than the first dose. The CDC and its partners are investigating these reports of myocarditis and pericarditis following mRNA COVID-19 vaccination.

## WHAT IF I DECIDE NOT TO GET THE PFIZER COVID-19 VACCINE?

It is your choice to receive or not receive the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine. Should you decide not to receive it, it will not change your standard medical care.

Adapted from CDC.gov: [www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/different-vaccines/Pfizer-BioNTech.html](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/different-vaccines/Pfizer-BioNTech.html)