

COVID-19 VACCINES FAQ

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1 *Can I trust the vaccines to work since they were developed so quickly?*

Safe and Effective. Pfizer-BioNTech and Moderna's COVID-19 vaccines report 95% and 94.1% effectiveness, respectively, after successful Phase 3 Trials with 70,000 volunteers. The efficacy of these vaccines developed in less than a year is a novel scientific achievement due to unprecedented funding, worldwide resources, and new, faster approaches to vaccine science, including using messenger RNA (mRNA). The vaccine effectiveness is consistent across age, gender, race, and ethnicity. There are no serious safety concerns noted in the clinical trials.

2 *What are the side effects?*

Minor and temporary. Pfizer-BioNTech and Moderna's vaccines have similar minor and common side effects, which typically last a few days, including injection site pain, fatigue, headache, muscle pain, chills, joint pain, and fever. Side effects can occur after the first or second dose but can be more prevalent after the second dose. Rare side effects, including temporary facial paralysis and severe allergic reactions, have been reported. Of the 21 people who experienced severe allergic reactions since the vaccine roll-out, 17 had a history of allergies and allergic reactions. All have recovered.

3 *When can I expect to get my vaccine?*

The rollout is underway; initial supplies are limited but will amp up. Like COVID-19 tests, vaccines are a state-led effort, but the Federal Government decides the number of vaccines each state gets based on the state's population of individuals aged 18 and older. The CDC has recommended initial distribution for front line healthcare workers and long-term care residents, known as **Phase 1a**. The next recommended phases include:

- **Phase 1b:** essential workers (teachers, firefighters, police officers, USPS workers, and others) and individuals age 75 and older.
- **Phase 1c:** individuals aged 65-74 years, people aged 16-64 with underlying medical conditions, additional essential workers (transportation, food service, construction, law, and others).

In general, this is the prioritization approach that many states have adopted, but things are changing daily. **Please visit your state's health department website to learn when and how you can get vaccinated.**

4 *After I get vaccinated, will I have to wear a mask?*

Yes. While the vaccine is safe and effective in preventing individuals from getting sick with COVID-19, studies are ongoing to determine the protection the vaccine provides in real-life scenarios. The trials tracked the effectiveness of the vaccine on whether or not volunteers got sick with the virus. It is unknown if vaccinated people could still be "silent spreaders." **Vaccinated or not, continued mask-wearing, social distancing, and good hygiene practices are imperative to help stop the spread of the COVID-19.**

5 *Are there other vaccines available besides Pfizer and Moderna's?*

Other COVID-19 vaccines could be coming. Currently, only Pfizer-BioNTech and Moderna's vaccine candidates have Emergency Use Authorization (EUA) from the FDA in the United States. The United Kingdom approved a third vaccine candidate from AstraZeneca and the University of Oxford on December 30. It will likely be spring at the earliest before the US does the same. In the United States, an independent advisory committee scrutinizes data from both the FDA and the company, whereas the UK relies more heavily on data from the company. AstraZeneca's patient trials have had some missteps causing delays, and the company is now engaged in a larger, US-based trial of 30,000 participants. All three vaccines require a two-shot regimen, but AstraZeneca's vaccine does not require Pfizer's and Moderna's sub-zero storage requirements, and at \$3 or \$4 a shot, it is a fraction of the cost.

6 *Will all Americans be required to get vaccinated?*

Yes and no. The federal government is unlikely to pass a mandate requiring that all Americans be vaccinated. Enforcement will more likely come from private corporations and states requiring vaccinations as a condition to return to the workplace, enroll in universities, and attend public and private schools. There is precedent and a Supreme Court case (Jackson v the Commonwealth of Massachusetts - 1905, smallpox) for states to enforce mandatory vaccination laws, but that is not the recent tradition. Experts believe that it may take a few years for COVID-19 vaccinations to be required for school enrollment and would only happen after the vaccines were fully licensed and approved by the FDA.

This document is maintained by VIGILINT's marketing team and will be updated on an ongoing basis.