

# Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine Fact Sheet



The Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine prevents severe illness, hospitalization, and death from COVID-19. On December 11, 2020, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) issued an emergency use authorization (EUA) for the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine. The emergency use authorization allows the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine to be distributed in the U.S. for use in individuals 16 years of age and older.

## **Pfizer-BioNTech Vaccine and How it Works:**

- 95% effective at preventing symptomatic COVID-19 infection in clinical trials. These trials also proved the vaccine is effective at preventing severe COVID-19, hospitalization, and death.
- Clinical trials showed no difference in efficacy based on race or ethnicity.
- Two shots are required, delivered 21 days apart.
- At this time, there is not enough data for scientists to determine if the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine can prevent the transmission of COVID-19 between people, only that it prevents people from getting sick.
- mRNA vaccines instead teach our cells how to make a spike protein that triggers an immune response inside our bodies, preventing infection.
- mRNA vaccines do not contain live virus and carry no risk of causing COVID-19 disease in the vaccinated person.
- mRNA vaccines do not affect or interact with our DNA in any way.

## **Pfizer-BioNTech Vaccine Possible Side Effects:**

- Most common side effects include injection site pain, fatigue, headache, muscle pain, joint pain, and fever.
- In clinical trials, side effects were common within 7 days of getting vaccinated but most were mild and resolved within a few days.
- Side effects are a sign the immune system is kicking into gear. They do not signal the vaccine is unsafe. To date there are no serious or long-term side effects associated with receipt of the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine. VA and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) are closely monitoring side effects as more people use the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine.
- VA is taking precautions to ensure those with a history of a severe allergic reaction to the ingredients in the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine do not receive the vaccine. VA is also ensuring that VA clinicians are fully prepared to respond to a severe allergic reaction post vaccination.

**For more information click on or scan this code:**

## **Keep Our Communities Safe:**

Continue to take action by practicing the 3 W's: Wear a mask, wash your hands, and watch your distance.



**Safe care is our mission.**

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**VA**



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