FACT SHEET: **Pfizer COVID-19 Vaccine (Comirnaty)**  
**Benefits and Risks**

Based on careful review by national experts, we know the benefits of COVID-19 vaccines far outweigh the risks. Understand the benefits and risks of receiving the two-dose Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine, which may prevent you from getting COVID-19. It is your choice to receive this vaccine. Talk to the vaccination provider if you have questions.

**About this Vaccine**

This vaccine has been given full approval by the FDA for people ages 16 and older and is marketed as Comirnaty. This vaccine has FDA emergency use authorization for people ages 5 to 15. This vaccine is a two-dose series, given three weeks apart, injected into the muscle.

**Benefits of this Vaccine**

This vaccine has been shown to prevent illness, hospitalization, or death from COVID-19 following two doses given three weeks apart.

**What to Expect When You Get the Vaccine**

You may have some side effects, which are normal signs that your body is building protection. Side effects may include an injection site reaction, headache, feeling tired, muscle aches, nausea, or fever. Side effects should go away within a few days.

**Risks Associated with this Vaccine**

While there are small risks to getting the COVID-19 vaccine, the benefits of getting vaccinated outweigh the risks. Risks include:

- **Rare Severe Allergic Reaction:** There is a remote chance the vaccine could cause a severe allergic reaction (difficulty breathing, swelling of face and throat, fast heartbeat, bad rash all over your body, dizziness, weakness), which would usually occur a few minutes to one hour after getting the dose. If you experience a severe allergic reaction, call 9-1-1 or go to the nearest hospital.

- **Rare Myocarditis and Pericarditis:** There have been rare cases of myocarditis and pericarditis following Pfizer COVID-19 vaccination, particularly in male adolescents and young adults, more often after getting the second dose than the first dose, and typically within several days of vaccination. In most of these reported cases, patients who presented for medical care have responded well to medications and rest and had prompt improvement of symptoms. You should seek medical attention if you experience symptoms of myocarditis or pericarditis, including chest pain, shortness of breath, and feelings of having a fast-beating, fluttering, or pounding heart.

**If You Experience Side Effects**

If you experience a severe allergic reaction, call 9-1-1, or go to the nearest hospital. Call the vaccination provider or your healthcare provider if you have any side effects that bother you or do not go away.

**Vaccination Options**

It is your choice to receive this vaccine and not getting it well not change your standard medical care. Other vaccines to prevent COVID-19 are available.

**Boosters**

All those age 12 and older who received the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine should receive a booster dose of COVID-19 vaccine 5 months after their second dose. People 12-17 years old are only eligible for a booster dose of the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine. People 18 and older can choose any COVID-19 vaccine for the booster dose. However, an mRNA COVID-19 vaccine (Pfizer or Moderna) is preferred over the Johnson & Johnson COVID-19 vaccine for booster vaccination. Additional information is available on the CDPH COVID-19 Booster website.

**More Information**