

# FACT SHEET: Pfizer COVID-19 Vaccine Benefits and Risks

**Understand the risks and benefits of receiving the two-dose Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine, which may prevent you from getting COVID-19. Anyone age 12 and up may get this vaccine. It is your choice to receive this vaccine. Talk to the vaccination provider if you have questions.**

## About this Vaccine

Like all COVID-19 vaccines, this vaccine has been authorized by the FDA for emergency use given the severity of the COVID-19 pandemic. This vaccine is a two-dose series, given three weeks apart, injected into the muscle.

## Before Getting the Vaccine

Tell the vaccination provider about all your medical conditions, including if you:

- have any allergies
- have a fever
- have a bleeding disorder or are on a blood thinner
- are immunocompromised or are on a medicine that affects your immune system
- are pregnant, breastfeeding, or plan to become pregnant
- have received another COVID-19 vaccine

## You Should Not Get this Vaccine if:

You had a severe allergic reaction to any ingredient of this vaccine: 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.

## Benefits of this Vaccine

In an ongoing clinical trial, this vaccine has been shown to prevent illness, hospitalization or death from COVID-19 following two doses given three weeks apart. The duration of protection against COVID-19 is currently unknown.

## Risks Associated with this Vaccine

- **General Side Effects:** Side effects reported with this vaccine include non-severe allergic reactions (rash, itching, hives, swelling of the face), injection site pain, swelling and redness, tiredness, headache, muscle pain, chills, joint pain, fever, nausea, feeling unwell, swollen lymph nodes, diarrhea, vomiting, and arm pain.
- **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 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.

## Other Options to Prevent COVID-19

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

## More Information

Visit [www.pfizer.com/science/coronavirus/vaccine-efforts](http://www.pfizer.com/science/coronavirus/vaccine-efforts) or [www.cdc.gov/coronavirus](http://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus)

Call 1-800-438-1985



Adapted from [FDA Fact Sheet for Recipients and Caregivers](#)