

# UNDERSTANDING THE FACT SHEET: THE PFIZER-BIONTECH COVID-19 VACCINE

The Pfizer-BioNTech (often shortened to Pfizer) is one of three COVID-19 vaccines available in the U.S. The Pfizer vaccine needs two doses and a subsequent booster to be fully effective, though each dose provides some protection against severe disease.

The Pfizer vaccine is an *mRNA vaccine*. It contains messenger RNA (mRNA). mRNA is like an instruction manual. It teaches your body how to make a harmless protein that looks like a protein on this coronavirus. Your body responds to the protein and creates disease-fighting cells and antibodies that can recognize and fight this coronavirus. The vaccine:

- **Does not** give you COVID-19.
- **Does not** change your DNA or genetic material.
- **Does not** cause infertility.
- **Does not** contain eggs, preservatives, latex, pork or other animal products, fetal cells or the coronavirus.

## The Pfizer vaccine is for people 12 years and older

Talk with your doctor or clinic if you are pregnant or breastfeeding, have serious allergies, have a history of clotting, have had a complication of COVID-19 called MIS-C or MIS-A, or have had myocarditis or pericarditis (inflammation of the heart or sac around the heart).

### Mild side effects

Many people have mild side effects after getting the vaccine. For some people, this is a sign that your body is building protection against the disease. Even if you don't have side effects, the vaccine is working to protect you.

#### Common side effects include



Soreness or redness  
where you got  
the vaccine



A headache



Tiredness



A fever

These symptoms usually go away in a few days. If they don't, call your doctor or clinic.

### Rare, but serious problems

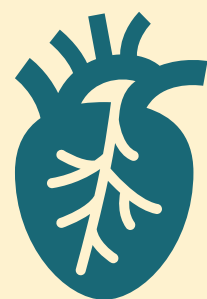
#### Allergic reaction

It is rare, but some people have had a severe allergic reaction to a COVID-19 vaccine. Everyone is asked to wait for at least fifteen minutes after vaccination to make sure there is no serious allergic reaction.



#### Myocarditis or Pericarditis

Rarely, myocarditis (inflammation of the heart muscle) and pericarditis (inflammation of the lining outside the heart) have occurred in some people (mostly men aged 16 - 30 yrs) who have taken the Pfizer-BioNTech or Moderna COVID-19 vaccine.



In most of these people, symptoms began a few days after the second dose of the vaccine. The chance of having this occur is very low — less than 1 in 10,000 people. Most cases are mild and get better on their own.

Seek medical attention right away if you have any of the following symptoms after receiving the vaccine:



Chest pain



Shortness of breath



Feelings of having a fast-beating, fluttering, or pounding heart

## Get support

It is important to feel good about your medical choices. If you have concerns about taking the Pfizer vaccine after reading this information, you can get more information or get a different vaccine.

- If you have questions, ask to talk to someone at the vaccine event.
- **Other vaccine brands are available, but may not be available at today's event.**  
For help finding a different vaccine brand, **ask the people organizing today's vaccine event, go online to <https://covidvaccine.oregon.gov/> or call 2-1-1.**



More information about the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine can be found in the full Fact Sheet from the FDA which is available for you to read and take home today.

Hold your smartphone's camera over this QR code to go directly to the info.

VISIT [MULTCO.US/COVID19](https://multco.us/covid19) FOR THE LATEST UPDATES

