COVID-19 VACCINE
FACT SHEET

The Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine is an mRNA vaccine given intramuscularly in the upper arm. This vaccine requires 2 shots at least 17 days apart.

The Moderna COVID-19 vaccine is an mRNA vaccine given intramuscularly in the upper arm. This vaccine requires 2 shots at least 24 days apart.

The Johnson & Johnson (Janssen) COVID-19 vaccine is an adenoviral vector vaccine given intramuscularly in the upper arm. This vaccine requires 1 shot only.

These Vaccines Do NOT contain Eggs, Latex or Preservatives.

COMMON SIDE EFFECTS

On the arm where you got the shot:
• Pain
• Redness
• Swelling

Throughout the rest of your body:
• Fever
• Chills
• Tiredness
• Headache
• Nausea

Helpful tips

If you have pain or discomfort after the vaccine, talk to your doctor about taking an over-the-counter medicine, such as ibuprofen or acetaminophen. It is not recommended to take these medications before your immunization.

To reduce pain and discomfort where you got the shot:
• Apply a clean, cool, wet washcloth over the area.
• Use or exercise your arm.

To reduce discomfort from fever:
• Drink plenty of fluids.
• Dress lightly.

When to call the doctor

In most cases, discomfort from fever or pain is normal. Contact your doctor or healthcare provider:
• If the redness or tenderness where you got the shot increases after 24 hours.
• If your side effects are worrying you or do not seem to be going away after a few days.

You can also call the Denver Health NurseLine at 303-389-1211.

Remember

Side effects may feel like flu and even affect your ability to do daily activities, but they should go away in a few days. Get the second shot even if you have side effects after the first one, unless a vaccination provider or your doctor tells you not to get a second shot. It takes time for your body to build protection after any vaccination. **COVID-19 vaccines that require 2 shots may not protect you until two weeks after your second shot.** It’s important for everyone to continue using all the tools available to help stop this pandemic as we learn more about how COVID-19 vaccines work in real-world conditions. Cover your mouth and nose with a mask when around others, stay at least 6 feet away from others, avoid crowds, and wash your hands often.

ASK YOUR HEALTHCARE PROVIDER ABOUT GETTING STARTED WITH V-SAFE

Use your smartphone to tell CDC about any side effects after getting the COVID-19 vaccine. You’ll also get reminders if you need a second dose. Learn more about v-safe. [www.cdc.gov/vsafe](http://www.cdc.gov/vsafe)