

COVID-19 vaccine FAQ

Q: Pfizer's and Moderna's vaccines require two doses.

What if I can't get the second dose on time?

A: While it is recommended to get the Pfizer injections 21 days apart, or the Moderna injections 28 days apart, the second dose for either vaccine can be administered up to six weeks (42 days) after the first dose and still provide the same level of protection against COVID-19.

Q: When will the Janssen (Johnson & Johnson) vaccine be available to the public?

A: The Janssen vaccine is scheduled to be reviewed by the FDA on February 26. If granted Emergency Use Authorization (EUA) as expected, the vaccine may begin distribution in March, with potential for 100 million doses available by early summer. The Janssen vaccine will only require a single injection.

Q: What's going on with the AstraZeneca vaccine I've been hearing about?

A: On February 15, the World Health Organization (WHO) listed the AstraZeneca/Oxford COVID-19 vaccine for emergency use. However, the FDA would still need to review the clinical data before granting EUA in the United States. Efficacy is reported at 63%.

Q: How do COVID-19 vaccines work?

A: Although the different COVID-19 vaccines (including those awaiting EUA) vary in functionality, they all drive the same result by instructing our cells to produce a harmless protein that resembles a protein associated with the novel coronavirus. Once our immune system develops antibodies to destroy the harmless protein structures, those same antibodies will recognize and destroy the virus that causes COVID-19.

Q: Why must I wear a mask after I've been vaccinated?

A: Although the authorized vaccines are effective at destroying the virus before it infects our cells, the virus may survive in our noses and mouths and, therefore, be spread to those who have not yet been vaccinated. Also, we are still unsure how effective the vaccines will be against the virus variants that have emerged.

COVID-19 vaccine status report

Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Authorized for emergency use December 2020 • Currently in use
Moderna vaccine	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Authorized for emergency use December 2020 • Currently in use
Janssen vaccine	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scheduled for FDA review February 26, 2021
AstraZeneca vaccine	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No date scheduled for FDA review • Listed for emergency use by WHO February 15, 2021
Novavax vaccine	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Now in phase III study • No date scheduled for FDA review

Stay safe and protect the people around you

It will take time for COVID-19 vaccines to work their way through the U.S. population. In the meantime, please continue to follow these safety precautions:



Wear a mask



Wash your hands often, with soap, for at least 20 seconds



Stay at least six feet away from non-household members



Avoid large social gatherings



Cover your mouth when you cough or sneeze



Clean and disinfect common areas and surfaces



Pay attention to your health