

# COVID-19 VACCINE

COVID-19 vaccinations are recommended for everyone 12 years and older and are an important tool to help stop the pandemic. The vaccinations provide a way to immunity without the potential risks and complications of the COVID-19 virus.

The COVID-19 pandemic and COVID Vaccination Plan are evolving situations. Brookings Health System is staying up-to-date on the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and South Dakota Department of Health guidelines and implementing changes immediately as needed.



FDA FACT SHEET

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

1

### WHERE CAN I GET A COVID-19 VACCINE?

Currently vaccines are being distributed through local clinics and pharmacies. Visit [brookingshealth.org/vaccine](https://www.brookingshealth.org/vaccine) to find a location near you.

2

### HOW DOES THE COVID-19 VACCINE WORK?

The COVID-19 vaccination helps protect people by creating an antibody response without having to be infected by the virus. By avoiding illness from the virus, people may also avoid the severe risks and complications of the virus, including possible death.

3

### ARE COVID-19 VACCINES SAFE FOR MY CHILD?

Yes. COVID-19 vaccination provides safe and effective protection against the virus that causes COVID-19. COVID-19 vaccines have been used under the most intensive safety monitoring in U.S. history.

The Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine is now available for everyone ages 12 years and older. In the clinical trial for children 12 through 15 years old, no serious safety concerns were identified with the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine.

The clinical trial also showed that the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine was 100% effective at preventing symptomatic, laboratory confirmed COVID-19 in children 12 through 15 years old. In addition, children's immune systems responded to the vaccine in a way similar to that of older teens and young adults. To get the most protection, your child will need 2 shots given 3 weeks (21 days) apart.

A full list of ingredients is available on each vaccine manufacturers' website and a sheet with allergen information will be given to you prior to receiving the vaccine. You may also find information about allergens on the CDC's website. If you are allergic to ingredients within the vaccine, please inform your vaccinator.

The FDA approved version of the Pfizer vaccine (Comirnaty) is for individuals 16 years of age and older. The FDA-authorized Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine is the vaccine originally distributed under the Emergency Use Authorization (EAU) and is the supply that is still in wide distribution and the EAU product is likely to be available and administered for some time. The Comirnaty vaccine and the EAU-authorized vaccine have the same formulation and can be used interchangeably without any safety or effectiveness concerns. The products are legally distinct with certain differences that do not impact safety or effectiveness.

4

#### WHAT SIDE EFFECTS DOES THE VACCINE CAUSE? HOW LONG WILL THEY LAST?

Reactions from a vaccine are a normal response and means the vaccine and your immune system are both working correctly. Both the Pfizer and Moderna vaccines have been associated with the following side effects which were sometimes slightly worse after the second dose:

- ◆ REDNESS OR SWELLING AT THE INJECTION SITE
- ◆ TIREDDNESS
- ◆ HEADACHE
- ◆ MUSCLE PAIN
- ◆ CHILLS
- ◆ JOINT PAIN
- ◆ FEVER
- ◆ VOMITING AND DIARRHEA

Side effect length varies from person to person, but generally they go away within a few days. Detailed information on adverse effects can be found on the CDC webpage: [www.cdc.gov/vaccines/covid-19/info-by-product/pfizer/reactogenicity.html](https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/covid-19/info-by-product/pfizer/reactogenicity.html)

5

#### DO I NEED TO GET A VACCINE IF I'VE ALREADY HAD COVID-19?

Yes. According to the CDC, there is not enough information currently available on natural immunity to say if or for how long after infection someone is protected from getting COVID-19 again. Early evidence suggests natural immunity from COVID-19 may not last very long, but more studies are needed to better understand this. If you believe your child has had COVID-19 or is known to have had COVID-19 in the 90 days prior to the proposed vaccine date then discuss the option of the vaccine with your healthcare provider.

6

#### CAN MY CHILD GET A COVID-19 VACCINE DURING THE SAME VISIT WITH OTHER VACCINES?

Yes. Your child can get a COVID-19 vaccine and other vaccines at the same visit. Experience with other vaccines has shown that the way our bodies develop protection after getting vaccinated (immune response) and possible side effects of vaccines are generally the same when given alone or with other vaccines. Talk with your healthcare provider to learn more.