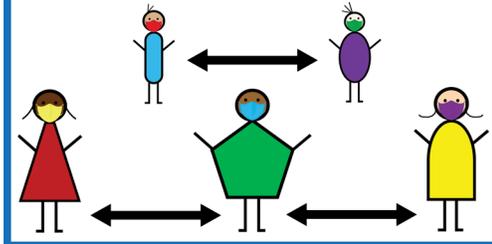


COVID-19 Vaccine Information Sheet #1

facts from the CDC and the Vermont Department of Health

#MasksOnHartford



What are the COVID-19 vaccines?

Currently, two COVID-19 vaccines have received Emergency Use Authorization (EUA) from the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA): **Pfizer-BioNTech** and **Moderna**.

- Both vaccines are very effective (94%-95%) at preventing severe COVID-19 illness.
- Both vaccines require two doses either 21 or 28 days apart, depending on the vaccine.
- Both vaccines may take up to 2 weeks after the second dose to be most effective.

How do vaccines work?

Vaccines stimulate your immune system to recognize and produce antibodies to fight a virus (or bacteria) in the same way it would if you were exposed to the disease. Most vaccines use weakened versions or parts of the disease-causing pathogen to stimulate the body's immune response to create antibodies. In contrast, these two COVID-19 vaccines use mRNA to instruct the body to make copies of a piece of the SARS-CoV-2 "spike protein" in order to trigger an immune response and build immunity to the virus that causes COVID-19.

Are the COVID-19 vaccines safe?

- YES. Like all vaccines, COVID-19 mRNA vaccines have been rigorously tested for safety before being authorized for use in the United States
- mRNA technology is new, but not unknown. mRNA vaccines have been studied for more than a decade, including for other coronaviruses like SARS and MERS.
- mRNA from the vaccine does not affect or interact with a person's genes

Can a COVID-19 vaccine make me sick with COVID-19?

NO. None of the COVID-19 vaccines contain the live virus, so they cannot make you sick with COVID-19.

Are there side effects from receiving a COVID-19 vaccine?

YES, after COVID-19 vaccination, you may have some side effects. This is a normal sign that your body is building protection. The second shot may result in a stronger immune response than the first shot. The side effects may feel like flu and might even affect your ability to do daily activities, but they should go away in a few days. The most commonly reported side effects are:

pain at the injection site, fatigue, fever, chills, headache, joint pain, muscle pain, nausea/vomiting

Can I receive the COVID-19 vaccine if I have had a severe allergic reaction to another vaccine?

NO. If you have had a severe allergic reaction after a previous vaccine, you should not get the COVID-19 vaccine. Individuals with a history of anaphylaxis (severe, potentially life-threatening allergic reaction) should consult their health care provider.

Do I need to continue wearing a mask after I receive the vaccine?

YES! We don't yet know whether getting a COVID-19 vaccine will prevent you from spreading the virus that causes COVID-19 to other people, even if you don't get sick yourself. It's critical that each of us continues to use all the tools available to help stop the spread of the virus – even after getting vaccinated:

Wash Hands * Masks on Faces * 6-Foot Spaces * Uncrowded/Ventilated Spaces