

About the COVID-19 Vaccines

Millions of Americans have been vaccinated to protect themselves against the COVID-19 virus. If you're wondering which vaccine is best for you, the short answer is **whichever one is available to you upon eligibility**. All the FDA-approved vaccines are safe and effective.

WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE VACCINES?

All available COVID-19 vaccines have been shown to be highly effective at preventing serious impacts of the virus including hospitalizations and deaths. Their differences are primarily the dosage schedule and how they can be transported and stored, as shown below.

	PFIZER-BIONTECH	MODERNA	JOHNSON & JOHNSON
TYPE	mRNA	mRNA	Viral vector
DOSES	2	2	1
PEAK EFFECTIVENESS*	7 days after the second dose*	14 days after the second dose*	28 days after the single dose*

*All three vaccines begin to protect you soon after being administered, including with the first dose.

WHY DOES STORAGE TEMPERATURE MATTER?

All vaccines require refrigeration, and some require cold or ultra-cold storage that many facilities don't have. Each vaccine's storage temperature only matters for storage and transportation—it does not have an impact on the vaccine's effectiveness. The Johnson & Johnson vaccine can be stored in a regular refrigerator, so a local pharmacy or a doctor's office could potentially be a vaccination site, which would increase vaccine access.

HOW EFFECTIVE IS EACH VACCINE?

Based on each vaccine manufacturer's reported data as of February 2021, all three vaccines are highly effective at preventing COVID-19-related severe infections and deaths.

	PFIZER-BIONTECH	MODERNA	JOHNSON & JOHNSON
AGAINST DEATH	100% Effective	100% Effective	100% Effective
AGAINST SEVERE INFECTIONS	75% Effective	100% Effective	85% Effective
AGAINST ALL INFECTIONS	95% Effective	94.5% Effective	66% Effective

All percentages are calculated based on a relatively small number of events and should be viewed as estimates.