

COVID-19 Vaccine

Quick Reference Guide for
Healthcare Professionals



The table below provides basic information on the proper storage, preparation, and administration of the currently authorized COVID-19 vaccine products in the United States. For additional information and detailed clinical guidance go to the manufacturers' website and CDC's webpages listed.

	Pfizer-BioNTech	Moderna	Janssen	
GENERAL	Authorizations and Approvals	www.fda.gov/emergency-preparedness-and-response/coronavirus-disease-2019-covid-19/pfizer-biontech-covid-19-vaccine	www.fda.gov/emergency-preparedness-and-response/coronavirus-disease-2019-covid-19/moderna-covid-19-vaccine	
	CDC Vaccine Information	www.cdc.gov/vaccines/covid-19/info-by-product/pfizer/index.html	www.cdc.gov/vaccines/covid-19/info-by-product/moderna/index.html	
	Manufacturer Contact Information	Website: www.cvdvaccine.com Medical information: 800-438-1985 Customer service: 800-879-3477	Website: www.modernatx.com Medical Information: 866-663-3762	Website: www.vaxcheck.jnj Medical information: 800-565-4008
STORAGE & HANDLING	How Supplied	Multidose vial: 6 doses	Multidose vial: Maximum of 15 primary-series doses or 20 booster doses	
	Diluent	0.9% sodium chloride (preservative-free, normal saline) provided in the ancillary kit. Do NOT use other diluent.	None	
	Storage Temperatures: Before Puncture	Between: -90°C and -60°C (-130°F and -76°F) until the expiration date -25°C and -15°C (-13°F and 5°F) for up to 2 weeks 2°C and 8°C (36°F and 46°F) for up to 1 month (31 days)	Between: -50°C and -15°C (-58°F and 5°F) until the expiration date 2°C and 8°C (36°F and 46°F) for up to 30 days 8°C and 25°C (46° and 77°F) for a total of 24 hours	Between: 2°C and 8°C (36°F and 46°F) until the expiration date
	Storage Temperatures: After Puncture	Between: 2°C to 25°C (36°F to 77°F) for up to 6 hours Discard any unused vaccine after 6 hours.	Between: 2°C and 25°C (36°F and 77°F) for up to 12 hours Discard any unused vaccine after 12 hours or after the vial has been punctured 20 times.	Between: 2°C and 8°C (36°F and 46°F) for up to 6 hours 9°C and 25°C (47°F and 77°F) for up to 2 hours Discard any unused vaccine after these time frames.
	Transport Temperatures: Before Puncture	Between: -90°C and -60°C (-130°F and -76°F) -25°C and -15°C (-13°F and 5°F) 2°C and 8°C (36°F and 46°F)	Between: -50°C and -15°C (-58°F and 5°F) 2°C and 8°C (36°F and 46°F) for up to 12 cumulative hours.	Between: 2°C and 8°C (36°F and 46°F)
	Transport Temperatures*: After Puncture	Between: 2°C to 25°C (36°F to 77°F) for up to 6 hours.	Between: 2°C and 25°C (36°F and 77°F) for up to 12 hours.	Between: 2°C and 8°C (36°F and 46°F) for up to 6 hours
Type of Vaccine	mRNA	mRNA	Viral vector	
Age Indications	12 through 15 years of age (EUA) 16 years of age and older (COMIRNATY)	18 years of age and older	18 years of age and older	
Primary Schedule[†]	2-doses, separated by 21 days; both doses must be Pfizer-BioNTech Vaccine (An additional [3rd] dose for moderately to severely immunocompromised people at least 28 days after the 2nd dose)	2 doses, separated by 28 days [‡] ; both doses must be Moderna Vaccine (An additional [3rd] dose for moderately to severely immunocompromised people at least 28 days after the 2nd dose)	1 dose only	

*CDC recommends following manufacturer's instructions for transporting vaccine.

[†]COVID-19 vaccines and other vaccines may be administered without regard to timing, including coadministration on the same day. When deciding if to administer COVID-19 vaccines and other vaccines, providers should consider whether the patient is behind or at risk of becoming behind on recommended vaccines, their risk of vaccine-preventable diseases (e.g., during an outbreak), and the reactogenicity profile of the vaccines.

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	Pfizer-BioNTech	Moderna	Janssen	
VACCINE ADMINISTRATION	Pfizer-BioNTech and Moderna Boosters A booster dose at least 6 months after the primary series should be given for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • People aged 65 years and older • Residents aged 18 years and older in long-term care settings • People aged 50-64 with underlying medical conditions A booster dose at least 6 months after the primary series may be given based on their individual benefits and risks for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • People aged 18-49 years with underlying medical conditions • People aged 18-64 years at increased risk for SARS-CoV-2 exposure and transmission because of occupational or institutional settings • Use of heterologous booster doses is allowed. If a Moderna COVID-19 booster is administered, it should be a half-dose of the primary series (0.25 mL). 			
	Dosage	0.3 mL	0.5 mL	0.5 mL
	Needle Gauge/ Length	12 through 18 years of age: 22–25 gauge, 1" 19 years of age and older: 22–25 gauge, 1 – 1½"	22–25 gauge, 1 – 1½"	22–25 gauge, 1 – 1½"
	Site	Deltoid	Deltoid	Deltoid
	Thawing Frozen Vaccine	Between: 2°C and 8°C (36°F and 46°F) or Room temperature up to 25°C (77°F) Do NOT refreeze thawed vaccine.	Between: 2°C and 8°C (36°F and 46°F) or 8°C to 25°C (46°F to 77°F) Do NOT refreeze thawed vaccine.	N/A
	Mixing Vaccine	Mix vaccine with 1.8 mL of 0.9% sodium chloride (preservative-free, normal saline).	Do NOT mix with any diluent.	Do NOT mix with any diluent.
	Contraindications/ Precautions	Contraindications <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Severe allergic reaction (e.g., anaphylaxis) after a previous dose or to a component of the COVID-19 vaccine • Immediate allergic reaction[†] of any severity to a previous dose or known (diagnosed) allergy to a component of the vaccine Note: Persons who have a contraindication to an mRNA COVID-19 vaccine (Moderna or Pfizer-BioNTech) may be able to receive the Janssen COVID-19 Vaccine (see footnote). [‡] Persons who have a contraindication to Janssen COVID-19 Vaccine may be able to receive an mRNA COVID-19 vaccine (see footnote). [‡]		
	Precautions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Most people determined to have a precaution to a COVID-19 vaccine at their appointment can and should be administered vaccine. • History of an immediate allergic reaction[†] to any other vaccine or injectable therapy (i.e., intramuscular, intravenous, or subcutaneous vaccines or therapies) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » This includes people with a reaction to a vaccine or injectable therapy that contains multiple components, one of which is a vaccine component, but for whom it is unknown which component elicited the immediate allergic reaction. • People with a contraindication to COVID-19 vaccines have a precaution to Janssen COVID-19 Vaccine, and vice versa. (see footnote).[‡] • Moderate to severe acute illness See Interim Clinical Considerations for Use of COVID-19 Vaccines Currently Approved or Authorized in the United States www.cdc.gov/vaccines/covid-19/info-by-product/clinical-considerations.html			

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Post-Vaccination Observation	30 minutes: People with a history of an immediate allergic reaction of any severity to a vaccine or injectable therapy, contraindication to a different type of COVID-19 vaccine, or history of anaphylaxis due to any cause. 15 minutes: All other persons		
Most Common Adverse Events	Injection site: pain, swelling, redness Systemic: fatigue, headache, muscle pain, chills, fever, joint pain	Injection site: pain, swelling, redness Systemic: fatigue, headache, muscle pain, chills, fever, nausea, joint pain	Injection site: pain, redness, swelling Systemic: fatigue, headache, muscle pain, nausea, fever

¹For the purpose of this guidance, an immediate allergic reaction is defined as any hypersensitivity-related signs or symptoms, such as urticaria, angioedema, respiratory distress (e.g., wheezing, stridor), or anaphylaxis that occur within 4 hours following exposure to a vaccine or medication.

²Consider consultation with an allergist-immunologist to help determine if the patient can safely receive vaccination. Healthcare providers and health departments may also request a consultation from the Clinical Immunization Safety Assessment Project <https://www.cdc.gov/vaccinesafety/ensuringsafety/monitoring/cisa/index.html>. Vaccination of these individuals should only be done in an appropriate setting under the supervision of a healthcare provider experienced in the management of severe allergic reactions.

- People with a contraindication to mRNA COVID-19 vaccines (including due to a known PEG allergy) have a precaution to Janssen COVID-19 vaccination. People who have previously received an mRNA COVID-19 vaccine dose but have a contraindication to a second dose should wait at least 28 days to receive Janssen COVID-19 Vaccine.
- People with a contraindication to Janssen COVID-19 Vaccine (including due to a known polysorbate allergy) have a precaution to mRNA COVID-19 vaccination.