



COVID-19 ABOUT THE 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, medical experts recommend getting whichever vaccine is available to you, when it's your turn. 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 hospitalizations and deaths due to COVID-19. Their differences are primarily the dosage schedule and how they can be transported and stored, as shown below. All three vaccines are approved for those 18 and older with Pfizer-BioNTech being authorized for those 16 and older.

	Pfizer-BioNTech	Moderna	Janssen
DOSES	2	2	1
TYPE	mRNA	mRNA	viral vector
DATE FULLY VACCINATED*	2 weeks after the second dose	2 weeks after the second dose	2 weeks after the single dose

* If it has been less than 2 weeks since your 1-dose shot, or if you still need to get your second dose of a 2-dose vaccine, you are NOT fully protected. Keep taking all prevention steps until you are fully vaccinated.

WHY DOES STORAGE TEMPERATURE MATTER?

All vaccines require refrigeration, and some require specific storage to preserve them. The Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine and the Moderna vaccine both require freezer storage, which some places don't have. The Janssen vaccine can be stored in a regular refrigerator, so many pharmacies, doctors' offices and other centers can become vaccination sites, increasing vaccine access.

HOW EFFECTIVE IS EACH VACCINE?

Medical experts recommend against a head-to-head comparison of these vaccines – the clinical trials took place in different places at different times. The Janssen vaccine, for example, was tested more recently, at a time when more contagious variants of the coronavirus were widely circulating. However, 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.**

Effectiveness	Pfizer-BioNTech	Moderna	Janssen
AGAINST DEATH	100%	100%	100%
AGAINST SEVERE INFECTIONS	95%	100%	85%

All percentages are estimates based on data from clinical trials; ongoing research will determine long-term estimates.

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