

FACT SHEET FOR PFIZER VACCINE RECIPIENTS AND THEIR CAREGIVERS

**Emergency Use Authorization of
the Pfizer Vaccine to Prevent COVID-19
in Individuals Age 12 and Older**

The DC Minor Consent for Vaccinations Amendment Act of 2020 (DC Law 23-193) enables a young person who is age 11 or older to receive a vaccine if the young person understands the purpose of the vaccine, the benefits and risks associated with accepting or declining the vaccine, and whether the vaccine is on the US Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices' recommended vaccination schedule.

COVID-19

COVID-19 is a respiratory disease caused by the coronavirus. You can get COVID-19 if you are around someone who has it.

People with COVID-19 report having a wide range of symptoms. Some people with COVID-19 may display no symptoms, and most develop only mild symptoms. However, some people may develop more severe symptoms, especially if they have other health issues. Symptoms may appear two to 14 days after being around someone with the virus.

Common symptoms of COVID-19 include:

- Breathing difficulties
- Chills
- Cough
- Diarrhea
- Fever
- Headache
- Loss of taste and smell
- Muscle and body aches
- Nausea
- Runny nose
- Sore throat
- Stuffy nose
- Tiredness
- Vomiting

Pfizer Vaccine

The Pfizer vaccine does not contain the coronavirus and cannot give you COVID-19.

The Pfizer vaccine is used to help prevent COVID-19. The Pfizer vaccine has been authorized on an emergency basis by the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA).

Ability to Prevent COVID-19

The Pfizer vaccine is given to an individual through a shot into their arm. Evidence from clinical trials shows that the Pfizer vaccine is 91.3% effective at preventing COVID-19 and 100% effective at preventing severe COVID-19 through 6 months after the second dose. No serious safety concerns have been identified to date. This vaccine is given in two doses, three weeks apart.

After you get your first dose, you will receive a vaccine card that tells you when to return for your second dose. Remember to bring your card when you return to the vaccine site for your second dose.

You will be considered fully vaccinated 14 days after your second dose.

Vaccine Safety and Risks

You should not get the Pfizer vaccine if you have had a severe allergic reaction to any of the vaccine's ingredients. Before receiving the vaccine, talk with your doctor if you are concerned about an allergic reaction. To learn more about the vaccine's ingredients, visit <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/different-vaccines/Pfizer-BioNTech.html>.

Before getting the vaccine, tell your vaccine provider if you have a fever, a weakened immune system, allergies, or a bleeding disorder. Also tell the provider if you are on any blood thinners, are pregnant, plan to become pregnant, or are breastfeeding. Let your vaccine provider know if you have received a dose of a COVID-19 vaccine other than the Pfizer vaccine.

After getting the vaccine, you may experience:

- Arm pain
- Chills
- Diarrhea
- Feeling unwell
- Headache
- Hives, itching, a rash, or swelling of the face
- Joint pain
- Muscle pain
- Nausea
- Shot site pain, redness, and swelling
- Swollen lymph nodes
- Tiredness
- Vomiting

These might not be all the possible side effects of the vaccine. In rare cases, serious side effects can occur. Call your vaccine provider or doctor if redness or tenderness where you got the shot increases after 24 hours or if you have any side effects that are worrying you or that are not going away after a few days.

There is a small chance that the Pfizer vaccine could cause you to have a severe allergic reaction.

Severe allergic reactions could include:

- A fast heartbeat
- A bad rash all over your body
- Difficulty breathing
- Dizziness
- Swelling of your face and throat
- Weakness

A severe allergic reaction would usually occur a few minutes to an hour after receiving a dose of the vaccine. For this reason, your vaccine provider will ask you to stay at the vaccination location for at least 15 minutes after receiving the vaccine.

If you experience a severe allergic reaction after leaving the vaccination site, call 911 or go to the nearest hospital.

You should not get a second dose of the Pfizer vaccine if you experienced a severe allergic reaction after your first dose. Talk with your doctor if you think you experienced a severe allergic reaction after your first vaccine dose.

Reporting Side Effects

Report side effects to your vaccine provider or doctor. You can also go to pfizersafetyreporting.com or call 800-438-1985.

Vaccination Fees

You cannot be charged for the vaccine or any administrative fees.

FDA Emergency Use Authorization

For information about the FDA's emergency use authorization of the Pfizer vaccine and other COVID-19 vaccines, please visit fda.gov/media/144414/download.

Additional Information

It is your choice whether you receive the Pfizer vaccine or any other COVID-19 vaccine. Talk with your vaccine provider or doctor if you have any questions.

We are still learning about how vaccines will affect the spread of COVID-19. After you've been fully vaccinated, you should continue to wash your hands often and practice social distancing,

such as wearing a mask, staying 6 feet away from others, and avoiding crowds and poorly ventilated spaces.¹

To learn more about the COVID-19 vaccines:

- Ask your vaccine provider or doctor.
- Visit the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) website at [cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html).
- Visit the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) website at [fda.gov/emergency-preparedness-and-response/mcm-legal-regulatory-and-policy-framework/emergency-use-authorization](https://www.fda.gov/emergency-preparedness-and-response/mcm-legal-regulatory-and-policy-framework/emergency-use-authorization).
- Visit DC Health's COVID-19 vaccine webpage at coronavirus.dc.gov/vaccine.
- Contact your local or state public health department.

If you have questions about the Pfizer vaccine specifically, visit [cvdvaccine.com](https://www.cvdvaccine.com) or call 877-829-2619. To ensure that you are accessing the most recent fact sheet, please scan the following QR code:



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¹ For exceptions to these requirements, see DC Health *Guidance for Fully Vaccinated People* at coronavirus.dc.gov/healthguidance



Scan to capture that this Fact Sheet was provided to vaccine recipient for the electronic medical records/immunization information systems.

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