

Information about the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine

Updated Dec. 22, 2020

General information

Name: BNT162b2

Manufacturer: Pfizer, Inc., and BioNTech

Type of vaccine: mRNA

Learn more about [how COVID-19 vaccines work](#) and get a better [understanding of COVID-19 mRNA vaccines](#).

Number of shots: 2 shots, 21 days apart

How given: Shot in the muscle of the upper arm

Does not contain:

- Eggs
- Preservatives
- Latex

[For a full list of ingredients, see Pfizer's COVID-19 Vaccine Fact Sheet for Recipients and Caregiversexternal icon](#)

Who should get vaccinated

- The Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine is recommended for people aged 16 years and older. Learn more about [how CDC is making COVID-19 vaccine recommendations](#) and [who should be vaccinated first when supplies are limited](#).

Who should not get vaccinated

- If you have had a severe allergic reaction—also known as anaphylaxis—to any ingredient in the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine, you should not get vaccinated.* Learn more about [COVID-19 vaccines and rare severe allergic reactions](#).

*If you have had a severe allergic reaction to other vaccines or injectable therapies, ask your doctor if you should get the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine. Your doctor will help you decide if it is safe for you to get the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine.

Side effects and safety information

Most common side effects

In the arm where you got the shot:	Throughout the rest of your body:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pain • Swelling • Redness 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chills • Tiredness • Headache

These side effects usually start within a day or two of getting the vaccine. They might feel like flu symptoms and might even affect your ability to do daily activities, but they should go away in a few days. [Get tips on what to expect after getting vaccinated](#).

Summary of safety data

- [In clinical trials](#), reactogenicity symptoms (side effects that happen within 7 days of getting vaccinated) were common but were mostly mild to moderate.
- Side effects (such as fever, chills, tiredness, and headache) throughout the body were more common after the second dose of the vaccine.
- Most side effects were mild to moderate. However, a small number of people had severe side effects—defined as side effects affecting a person’s ability to do daily activities.
- Although few people in the clinical trials went to the hospital or died, data suggest that people who got the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine were less likely to have these more serious outcomes compared to people who got the saline placebo.

- CDC will continue to provide updates as we learn more about the safety of the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine in real-world conditions. [Learn more about vaccine safety monitoring after a vaccine is authorized or approved for use.](#)

[Learn more about safety and reactogenicity data from the clinical trials.](#)

Information on how well the vaccine works

- Based on [evidence from clinical trials](#), the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine was 95% effective at preventing laboratory-confirmed COVID-19 illness in people without evidence of previous infection.
- CDC will continue to provide updates as we learn more about how well the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine works in real-world conditions.

Demographic information from clinical trials

Phase 2 and 3 clinical trials for the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine included people from the following racial and ethnic categories:

- 81.9% White
- 26.2% Hispanic/Latino
- 9.8% African American
- 4.4% Asian
- <3% other races/ethnicities

Age and sex breakdown:

- 50.6% male
- 49.4% female
- 21.4% 65 years and older

The most frequent underlying medical conditions were obesity (35.1%), diabetes (8.4%), and pulmonary disease (7.8%).

[Learn more about demographic information for people who participated in the trials.!\[\]\(870f5d5e9c0d57485634be3ecf52f3ca_img.jpg\)](#)

More Information

- [What to Expect After Getting a COVID-19 Vaccine](#)
- [Learn more about how federal partners are ensuring the safety of COVID-19 vaccines](#)
- [Learn more about the benefits of getting a COVID-19 vaccine](#)