

COVID-19 Vaccine Comparisons

Brand	Moderna	Pfizer	J & J (Paused on 4/13/2021, resumed on 4/23/2021)
Type	mRNA		Viral Vector
How does it work?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • These new vaccines make use of the SARS-CoV2's spikes (the S-protein that attaches to your cells). • The new vaccine is a genetic code (mRNA) that makes your cells create the same spike. • Your immune system recognizes this protein and could protect you from the real virus. 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A weakened version of a live virus has genetic material from the virus that causes COVID-19. • The genetic material gives cells instructions to make a protein that causes COVID-19. • Prompts our bodies to build lymphocytes that will remember how to fight that virus if we are infected in the future.
Side effects	Injection site reactions: • Pain • Swelling • Redness Moderna: • Tenderness and swelling of the lymph nodes in the same arm of the injection		
	Moderna, Pfizer: General side effects: • Headache • Fatigue • Muscle pain/aches • Nausea • Fever • Chills • Joint pain Pfizer: • Feeling unwell • Swollen lymph nodes • Non-severe allergic reactions, e.g. rash, itching, hives, or swelling of the face		
	Small chance of Severe allergic reactions:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Difficulty breathing • Swelling of face and throat • Dizziness and weakness 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fast heartbeat • Bad rash all over your body
	J&J: Blood clots with low platelets in adult women under 50 <small>(monitor for 3 weeks after J&J vaccination)</small>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Severe or persistent headaches or blurred vision • Shortness of breath • Leg swelling • Easy bruising or tiny blood spots under the skin beyond the injection site 	
Shots needed	2		1
Eligibility	Ages 18 and older	Ages 12 and older <small>(Updated on 05/12/2021)</small>	Ages 18 and older
Days between shots	28	21	none
Efficacy	94.1%*	95%*	66%*
	*All vaccines can prevent hospitalizations and death. We should not use the efficacy data to compare between any vaccines because no head-to-head studies have been conducted. The efficacy data are unique to their respective clinical studies. Factors such as location, variant strains, and when the studies were conducted can also vary the efficacy of the vaccines.		



To learn more about our doctor's group, call Member Relations: (415) 590-7418



aamgdoctors.com

youtube.com/AAMGDoctors

facebook.com/DoctorsAAMG