

Patient Education

COVID-19 Vaccine (mRNA)

You must carefully read the "Consumer Information Use and Disclaimer" below in order to understand and correctly use this information

Brand Names: US

Moderna COVID-19 Vaccine; Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vacc

Brand Names: Canada

Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vacc

What is this drug used for?

- It is used to prevent COVID-19.

What do I need to tell my doctor BEFORE I take this drug?

- If you are allergic to this drug; any part of this drug; or any other drugs, foods, or substances. Tell your doctor about the allergy and what signs you had.
- If you have COVID-19, if you have any symptoms that could be from COVID-19, or if you are waiting to find out COVID-19 test results.
- If you have an illness with a fever.
- If you have bleeding problems.
- If you are taking a blood thinner.
- If you have been exposed to someone who has COVID-19 within the past 14 days.
- If you have been treated for COVID-19 infection with other drugs or plasma in the past 90 days.
- If you have had another vaccine within the past 14 days or are scheduled to get one within the next 14 days.
- This is not a list of all drugs or health problems that interact with this drug.
- Tell your doctor and pharmacist about all of your drugs (prescription or OTC, natural products, vitamins) and health problems. You must check to make sure that it is safe for you to take this drug with all of your drugs and health problems. Do not start, stop, or change the dose of any drug without checking with your doctor.

What are some things I need to know or do while I take this drug?

- Tell all of your health care providers that you take this drug. This includes your doctors, nurses, pharmacists, and dentists.
- This vaccine cannot cause COVID-19.
- You will need to get 2 doses of the same vaccine. Both doses are needed in order to get the most protection against COVID-19. Be sure you know when to get back to get your

second dose. Like all vaccines, the COVID-19 vaccine may not fully protect all people who get it. If you have questions, talk with your doctor.

- After getting the vaccine, continue to do things that prevent the spread of COVID-19 as recommended by local public health officials. These include washing hands often, wearing a mask, staying at least 6 feet away from other people, and avoiding crowds.
- If you have a weak immune system or take drugs that weaken the immune system, talk with your doctor. This vaccine may not work as well.
- Tell your doctor if you are pregnant, plan on getting pregnant, or are breast-feeding. You will need to talk about the benefits and risks to you and the baby.

What are some side effects that I need to call my doctor about right away?

- **WARNING/CAUTION:** Even though it may be rare, some people may have very bad and sometimes deadly side effects when taking a drug. Tell your doctor or get medical help right away if you have any of the following signs or symptoms that may be related to a very bad side effect:
- Signs of an allergic reaction, like rash; hives; itching; red, swollen, blistered, or peeling skin with or without fever; wheezing; tightness in the chest or throat; trouble breathing, swallowing, or talking; unusual hoarseness; or swelling of the mouth, face, lips, tongue, or throat.
- Fast heartbeat, dizziness or passing out, or weakness. These may be other signs of a severe allergic reaction.

What are some other side effects of this drug?

- All drugs may cause side effects. However, many people have no side effects or only have minor side effects. Call your doctor or get medical help if any of these side effects or any other side effects bother you or do not go away:
- Pain, redness, or swelling where the injection was given; headache; muscle or joint pain; fever of 100.4°F (38°C) or higher; chills; upset stomach or throwing up; swollen or tender glands; or feeling tired or unwell. Most of the time, these were mild to moderate and went away within a few days after the injection.
- These are not all of the side effects that may occur. If you have questions about side effects, call your doctor. Call your doctor for medical advice about side effects.
- You may report side effects to your national health agency.

How is this drug best taken?

- Use this drug as ordered by your doctor. Read all information given to you. Follow all instructions closely.
- It is given as a shot into a muscle.

What do I do if I miss a dose?

- Call your doctor to find out what to do. For the most protection against COVID-19, it is important that you do not miss or skip the second dose.

How do I store and/or throw out this drug?

- This injection will be given to you in a healthcare setting. You will not store it at home.

General drug facts

- If your symptoms or health problems do not get better or if they become worse, call your doctor.
- Do not share your drugs with others and do not take anyone else's drugs.
- Keep all drugs in a safe place. Keep all drugs out of the reach of children and pets.
- Throw away unused or expired drugs. Do not flush down a toilet or pour down a drain unless you are told to do so. Check with your pharmacist if you have questions about the best way to throw out drugs. There may be drug take-back programs in your area.
- Some drugs may have another patient information leaflet. If you have any questions about this drug, please talk with your doctor, nurse, pharmacist, or other health care provider.
- If you think there has been an overdose, call your poison control center or get medical care right away. Be ready to tell or show what was taken, how much, and when it happened.

Consumer Information Use and Disclaimer: This information should not be used to decide whether or not to take this medicine or any other medicine. Only the healthcare provider has the knowledge and training to decide which medicines are right for a specific patient. This information does not endorse any medicine as safe, effective, or approved for treating any patient or health condition. This is only a brief summary of general information about this medicine. It does NOT include all information about the possible uses, directions, warnings, precautions, interactions, adverse effects, or risks that may apply to this medicine. This information is not specific medical advice and does not replace information you receive from the healthcare provider. You must talk with the healthcare provider for complete information about the risks and benefits of using this medicine.

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