

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

Pronunciation

(KO vid nine teen vak SEEN m R N A)

Brand Names: US

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

Brand Names: Canada

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

What is this drug used for?

- It is used to prevent COVID-19.

What do I need to tell the doctor BEFORE my child takes this drug?

- If your child is allergic to this drug; any part of this drug (including polyethylene glycol); or any other drugs, foods, or substances (including polysorbate). Tell the doctor about the allergy and what signs your child had.
- If your child has COVID-19, has any symptoms that could be from COVID-19, is waiting to find out COVID-19 test results, or has recently had COVID-19.
- If your child has an illness with a fever.
- If your child has ever had certain heart problems (myocarditis, pericarditis).
- If your child has bleeding problems.
- If your child is taking aspirin or a blood thinner.
- If your child has had a different COVID-19 vaccine.
- If your child has been exposed to someone who has COVID-19 within the past 14 days.
- If your child has been treated for COVID-19 infection with other drugs or plasma in the past 90 days.

- If your child has been treated with a type of drug (monoclonal antibody) in the past 90 days to prevent COVID-19 after being around someone who has COVID-19.
- This is not a list of all drugs or health problems that interact with this drug.
- Tell the doctor and pharmacist about all of your child's drugs (prescription or OTC, natural products, vitamins) and health problems. You must check to make sure that it is safe to give this drug with all of your child's other drugs and health problems. Do not start, stop, or change the dose of any drug your child takes without checking with the doctor.

What are some things I need to know or do while my child takes this drug?

- Tell all of your child's health care providers that your child is taking this drug. This includes your child's doctors, nurses, pharmacists, and dentists.
- This vaccine cannot cause COVID-19.
- Your child will need to get 2 doses of this vaccine. Both doses are needed to get the most protection. Some people (like people with weak immune systems) may also need a third dose. Be sure you know when to take your child back to get doses. If your child had a severe reaction after the first dose, talk with the doctor.
- It is not known how long people who get this vaccine will be protected from COVID-19.
- Like all vaccines, this vaccine may not fully protect all people who get it. If you have questions, talk with the doctor.
- If your child has side effects after a dose, acetaminophen or nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs) like ibuprofen or naproxen may help.
- Side effects may happen more often after the second dose. If you have questions about the second dose, talk with the doctor.
- After getting the vaccine, have your child 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 your child has a weak immune system or takes drugs that weaken the immune system, talk with the doctor. This vaccine may not work as well.
- If your child has had a dermal filler injection, talk with the doctor. Rarely, swelling at or near the area of the filler (usually in the face or lips) has happened after a dose of this vaccine. When this happened, it did not last for long and went away with treatment.
- Rarely, cases of Bell's palsy happened in studies. It is not known if this vaccine may be the cause. Tell the doctor if your child has ever had Bell's palsy. Call the doctor right away if your child has signs like weak or drooping muscles on one side of the face.
- This drug may not be for use in children of all ages. Talk with the doctor before giving this drug to a child.

- **If your child is pregnant or breast-feeding a baby:**
- Talk with the doctor if your child is pregnant, becomes pregnant, or is breast-feeding a baby. You will need to talk about the benefits and risks to your child and the baby.

What are some side effects that I need to call my child's 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 child's doctor or get medical help right away if your child has 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 or slow heartbeat, dizziness, passing out, weakness, anxiety, confusion, or change in eyesight or hearing. These may be other signs of an allergic reaction or other type of reaction.
 - Some heart problems have very rarely happened with mRNA COVID-19 vaccines. Most of the time, signs started within 7 days after the second dose. Call the doctor right away if your child has chest pain; shortness of breath; or if your child feels like their heart is beating fast, fluttering, or pounding. These heart problems can happen at a higher rate in people who get COVID-19 than in those who get this vaccine. If you have questions about this information, talk with the doctor.

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 child's doctor or get medical help if any of these side effects or any other side effects bother your child 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, throwing up, or diarrhea; swollen or tender glands; or feeling tired or unwell. Most side effects have been mild to moderate. Most of the time these happened within 3 days after the injection and went away within 1 to 3 days.
 - Pain, redness, or swelling at the injection site have happened a few days to a few weeks after the first injection. If this happens, talk with the doctor. Have your child get the second dose in the other arm.
- These are not all of the side effects that may occur. If you have questions about side effects, call your child's doctor. Call your child's doctor for medical advice about side effects.
- You may report side effects to your national health agency.

How is this drug best given?

- Give this drug as ordered by your child's doctor. Read all information given to you. Follow all instructions closely.

- It is given as a shot into a muscle.
- Your child will be watched closely while getting this drug and for some time after the dose. Talk with your child's doctor.

What do I do if my child misses a dose?

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

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

- The injection will be given to your child in a healthcare setting. You will not store it at home.

General drug facts

- If your child's symptoms or health problems do not get better or if they become worse, call your child's doctor.
- Do not share your child's drug with others and do not give anyone else's drug to your child.
- 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 child's 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.

Last Reviewed Date

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