

# COMPARING COVID-19 VACCINES

COVID-19 vaccines are [safe](#), [effective](#), and free! After you've been fully vaccinated, you can [participate in many of the activities](#) that you did prior to the pandemic. Learn about [booster shots](#). Learn about [COVID-19 vaccines for children and teens](#).

	Pfizer-BioNTech	Moderna	Janssen ( <a href="#">view updates</a> )
Vaccine Type	<a href="#">mRNA</a> ( <i>FDA Approved</i> )	<a href="#">mRNA</a>	<a href="#">Vector</a>
Age requirement	<a href="#">5 years and older</a>	18 years and older	18 years and older
Number of Doses	Two doses are needed, 21 days apart (or up to six weeks apart, if needed)  Some protection provided after the first dose	Two doses are needed, 28 days apart (or up to six weeks apart, if needed)  Some protection provided after the first dose	One dose is needed  Protection provided two weeks after vaccination
Additional Dose	Recommended for <a href="#">moderately to severely immunocompromised people</a>  Given 4 weeks after second shot	Recommended for <a href="#">moderately to severely immunocompromised people</a>  Given 4 weeks after second shot	Not recommended at this time
Booster Dose	Recommended for some people who are <a href="#">at higher risk for COVID-19 exposure or severe illness</a>  Given 6 or more months after second shot	Recommended for some people who are <a href="#">at higher risk for COVID-19 exposure or severe illness</a>  Given 6 or more months after second shot	All those <a href="#">18 years or older</a> are eligible for a booster  Given at least 2 months after your first shot

**You may choose which COVID-19 vaccine you receive as a booster shot.**

Side Effects	Injection site pain, fatigue, headache, muscle pain, chills, joint pain, fever, nausea, feeling unwell and swollen lymph nodes	Injection site pain, fatigue, headache, muscle pain, chills, joint pain, swollen lymph nodes in the arm that was injected, nausea, vomiting and fever	Injection site pain, headache, fatigue, muscle pain, chills, fever and nausea
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**If you have any questions or concerns about getting a COVID-19 vaccine, talk to your doctor.**



[doh.sd.gov/covid/](https://doh.sd.gov/covid/)