

# ***COVID-19 Vaccines: Pfizer and Moderna Stats and FAQ***



## **Pfizer Vaccine Stats**

- **Type of vaccine:** mRNA vaccine
- **# of doses required:** 2 doses
- **Length of time between doses:** 21 days
- **Trial Status:** Submitted for Emergency Use Authorization
- **Efficacy Data:** Shown to be 95% effective
- **Safety Data:** No major adverse events
  - 3.8% of those who received the vaccine reported fatigue
  - 2.0% of those who received the vaccine reported a headache
- **Timeline and Distribution**
  - **Estimated Release:** Early December
  - **Expected Production:** 20 million doses by the end of 2020 for the U.S. / 1.3 billion doses worldwide by the end of 2021

## **Moderna Vaccine Stats**

- **Type of vaccine:** mRNA vaccine
- **# of doses required:** 2 doses
- **Length of time between doses:** 28 days
- **Trial Status:** Phase 3 trial completed
- **Efficacy Data:** Up to 95% effective
- **Safety Data:** No major adverse events
  - Fatigue, muscle/joint pain, and headache noted as minor adverse events
- **Timeline and Distribution**
  - **Estimated Release:** Mid-to late December
  - **Expected Production:** 20 million doses by the end of 2020 for the U.S. / 500 million to 1 billion doses worldwide by the end of 2021

## **FAQs:**

### **Q: What is an adverse event?**

A: An “adverse event” is any health problem that happens after a shot or other vaccine. An adverse event might be truly caused by a vaccine, or it might be pure coincidence. <sup>1</sup> Adverse

events for both the Pfizer and Moderna vaccines look to be minor and include fatigue, muscle/joint pain, and/or a headache.

**Q: What is a mRNA vaccine? Am I having the virus injected into my body?**

A: Unlike a normal vaccine (which may use a dead or weakened version of the virus) RNA vaccines work by introducing an mRNA sequence (the molecule which tells cells what to build) which is coded for a specific disease antigen, once produced within the body, the antigen is recognized by the immune system, preparing it to fight the real thing. <sup>2</sup>

**Q: Can I get a shot of the Pfizer vaccine for my first dose and a shot of the Moderna vaccine for my second dose?**

A: No. In order for the vaccine to be effective, you must receive 2 doses of the same exact vaccine.

**Q: Is 95% efficacy a big deal?**

A: Yes, it is! Vaccine efficacy is the **percentage of reduction in risk of disease** among vaccinated persons relative to unvaccinated persons. The greater the percentage of reduction of illness in the vaccinated group, the greater the vaccine efficacy / effectiveness. <sup>3</sup>

**Q: Will I still have to practice social distancing and wear a mask after I get the vaccine?**

A: **Yes.** Even after a vaccine is approved, experts say people will need to wear masks and socially distance – in part because the vaccine doses will be limited, and it will take time to immunize enough of the population to stop the virus from spreading. <sup>4</sup>

1. Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention: <https://www.cdc.gov/vaccinesafety/ensuringsafety/sideeffects/index.html>
2. Source: University of Cambridge: <https://www.phgfoundation.org/briefing/rna-vaccines>
3. Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention: <https://www.cdc.gov/csels/dsepd/ss1978/lesson3/section6.html>
4. Source: The Washington Post: <https://www.washingtonpost.com/health/2020/11/17/covid-vaccines-what-you-need-to-know/?arc404=true>