

# Pfizer–BioNTech’s COVID-19 vaccine: What are the facts



Pfizer and BioNTech have collaborated to develop a vaccine for use in the **FIGHT AGAINST COVID-19**. The vaccine will be used initially in the U.S. and Europe and then expand to support global supply.

## What Type of Vaccine is It?



- This COVID-19 vaccine is an mRNA vaccine. It is a **NEW** vaccine developed to combat this particular virus.
- Research on mRNA vaccines has been going on for decades.
- The vaccine teaches your body’s cells to make a harmless spike protein that starts an **IMMUNE RESPONSE**.
- This response **PRODUCES ANTIBODIES** that protect you when you are exposed to the virus that causes COVID-19.

## How is the Vaccine Given?



- The vaccine will be given by a **HEALTHCARE PROFESSIONAL** into the upper arm.
- The needle used for this vaccine is very similar to other vaccines you may have received in the past.
- The vaccine will be given in **2 DOSES, 3 WEEKS APART**, and is 95% effective after 2 doses.
- Pfizer-BioNTech’s COVID-19 vaccine is approved for people 16 years and older.



## Health Facts

- You can’t get **COVID-19** from the vaccine.
- mRNA vaccines do not affect or interact with your **DNA**.



**SIDE EFFECTS:** The most common reported side effects of the vaccine are injection site reaction, fatigue, headache, muscle/joint pain, chills, and fever.

For more information about the COVID-19 vaccine, visit [vdh.virginia.gov/covid-19-vaccine](https://vdh.virginia.gov/covid-19-vaccine) or call 877-ASK-VDH3.



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