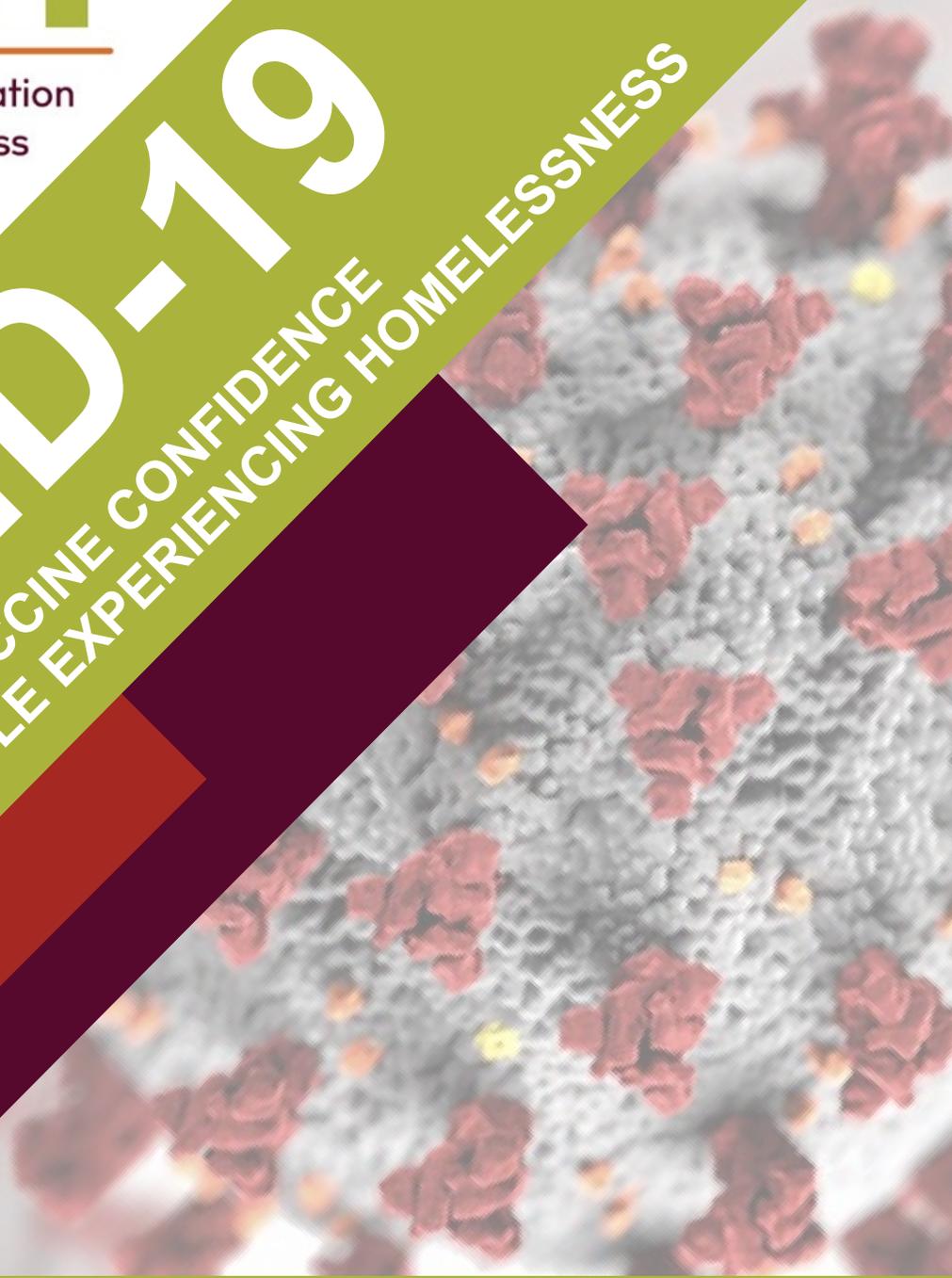




Tucson Pima Collaboration
To End Homelessness

COVID-19

PROMOTING VACCINE CONFIDENCE
AMONG PEOPLE EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS



PIMA COUNTY
HEALTH DEPARTMENT

CHAPTER 3 COVID-19 VACCINES

This chapter is excerpted from TPCH's Promoting COVID-19 Vaccine Confidence Toolkit for Homeless Advocates and Service Providers.

Toolkit Chapters

Download at <https://www.tpch.net/vaccine-toolkit>

Introduction: Overview of the toolkit's purpose, commonly used terms, and updates.

Chapter 1 - Vaccine Ambassadorship: Introduction to vaccine ambassadorship and the important role that homeless advocates can play in building vaccine confidence and uptake among people experiencing homelessness.

Chapter 2 - COVID-19 Basics: Basic information about SARS-CoV-2, COVID-19 illness, and risk management.

Chapter 3 - COVID-19 Vaccines: General information about currently available COVID-19 vaccines.

Chapter 4 - Vaccine Hesitancy: An introduction to vaccine hesitancy, common concerns expressed by people experiencing homelessness, and the relationship between racial trauma and vaccine hesitancy.

Chapter 5 - Promoting Vaccine Confidence: Tailored strategies to address common vaccine concerns among people experiencing homelessness, and sample responses to those concerns using messages that are proven to work.

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Chapter 3: COVID-19

Vaccines

Understanding the basics about current COVID-19 vaccines that includes their administration, effectiveness, safety, and side effects is essential to delivering accurate, honest information about vaccination to PEH. This section of the toolkit provides an overview of currently available COVID-19 vaccines and is adapted from the [U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Community-Based Organizations Vaccine Toolkit](#) and currently published research regarding the Pfizer, Moderna, and Johnson & Johnson vaccines.

Vaccination is the Safest Way to Build Protection

Getting the virus that causes COVID-19 may offer some natural protection, or immunity, known as antibodies, but experts don't know how long this protection lasts. The risk of severe illness and death from COVID-19 far outweighs any benefits of natural immunity. COVID-19 vaccination helps protect people from illness by building immunity to the virus that causes COVID-19 without the risk of severe illness that natural immunity poses. It is easy to be confused by all the information that is circulating, some of which may be conflicting. Here are a few [facts](#) from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

- COVID-19 vaccines will not give you COVID-19.
- People who have gotten sick with COVID-19 may still benefit from getting vaccinated.
- Getting vaccinated can help prevent getting sick with COVID-19.
- COVID-19 vaccines will not cause you to test positive on COVID-19 viral tests. Vaccination may cause a positive result on a serologic (antibody) test because the bodies' immune response to the vaccine creates antibodies to fight the virus that causes COVID-19.

Key facts about COVID-19 vaccination



Getting vaccinated can help prevent getting sick with COVID-19



People who have already gotten sick with COVID-19 may still benefit from getting vaccinated



COVID-19 vaccines cannot give you COVID-19



COVID-19 vaccines will not cause you to test positive on COVID-19 viral tests*

Source: CDC Community-Based Organizations Vaccine Toolkit



How COVID-19 Vaccines Work

Source: U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention COVID-19 Vaccine “Key Things to Know” webpage.

COVID-19 vaccines teach our immune systems how to recognize and fight the virus that causes COVID-19. It typically takes two weeks after vaccination for the body to build protection (immunity) against the virus that causes COVID-19. That means it is possible a person could still get COVID-19 before or just after vaccination and then get sick because the vaccine did not have enough time to provide protection.

People are considered fully protected two weeks after their second dose of the Pfizer-BioNTech or Moderna COVID-19 vaccine, or two weeks after the single-dose Johnson & Johnson’s Janssen COVID-19 vaccine.

Everyone should keep using all the tools available to protect themselves and others until they are fully vaccinated. After someone is fully vaccinated, they may be able to start doing some things they had stopped doing because of the pandemic. Learn more about what someone can do when they have been fully vaccinated.

Types of Vaccines

Currently, there are three main types of COVID-19 vaccines that are authorized and recommended, or undergoing large-scale (Phase 3) clinical trials in the United States. Below is a description of how each type of vaccine prompts our bodies to recognize and protect us from the virus that causes COVID-19. None of these vaccines can give someone COVID-19.

- **mRNA vaccines** contain material from the virus that causes COVID-19 that gives our cells instructions for how to make a harmless protein that is unique to the virus. After our cells make copies of the protein, they destroy the genetic material from the vaccine. Our bodies recognize that the protein should not be there and build T-lymphocytes and B-lymphocytes that will remember how to fight the virus that causes COVID-19 if we are infected in the future.
- **Protein subunit vaccines** include harmless pieces (proteins) of the virus that causes COVID-19 instead of the entire germ. Once vaccinated, our bodies recognize that the protein should not be there and build T-lymphocytes and antibodies that will remember how to fight the virus that causes COVID-19 if we are infected in the future.
- **Vector vaccines** contain a modified version of a different virus than the one that causes COVID-19. Inside the shell of the modified virus, there is material from the virus that causes COVID-19. This is called a “viral vector.” Once the viral vector is inside our cells, the genetic material gives cells instructions to make a protein that is unique to the virus that causes COVID-19. Using these instructions, our cells make copies of the protein. This prompts our bodies to build T-lymphocytes and B-lymphocytes that will remember how to fight that virus if we are infected in the future.

Vaccine Safety

Sources: U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention “[Safety of COVID-19](#)” webpage and “[Community-Based Organizations COVID-19 Vaccines Toolkit](#)”.

COVID-19 vaccines are safe and effective. COVID-19 vaccines were evaluated in tens of thousands of participants in clinical trials. The vaccines met FDA’s rigorous scientific standards for safety, effectiveness, and manufacturing quality needed to support emergency use authorization (EUA). [Learn more about EUAs](#).



Millions of people in the United States have received COVID-19 vaccines, and these vaccines will undergo the most intensive safety monitoring in U.S. history. This monitoring includes using both established and new safety monitoring systems to make sure that COVID-19 vaccines are safe.

Results are reassuring.

Results from monitoring efforts are reassuring. Some people have no side effects. Others have reported common side effects after COVID-19 vaccination like:

- swelling, redness and pain at injection site
- fever
- headache
- tiredness or muscle pain
- chills
- and nausea

These reactions are common. A small number of people have had a severe allergic reaction (called “anaphylaxis”) after vaccination, but this is extremely rare. If this occurs, vaccination providers have medicines available to effectively and immediately treat the reaction. When someone receives a COVID-19 vaccine, they are asked to stay for 15–30 minutes so they can be observed in case they have a severe allergic reaction and provided treatment in the rare case it is needed.

Vaccine Safety Measures

COVID-19 vaccines are being held to the same safety standards as other routine vaccines. Several expert and independent groups evaluate the safety of vaccines being given to people in the United States.

Before ANY vaccines receive authorization or approval, the Federal Drug Administration (FDA) carefully reviews all the safety data from clinical trials. In addition to FDA safety review, an independent body of experts known as the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) reviews all safety data before recommending use. FDA and ACIP have qualified scientific and clinical experts with minimal conflicts of interest reviewing the data.

Safety of COVID-19 vaccines is a top priority

COVID-19 vaccines are being held to the same safety standards as all vaccines.

<div style="background-color: #800000; color: white; padding: 5px; text-align: center; font-weight: bold;">Before Authorization ↻</div> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ FDA carefully reviews all safety data from clinical trials. ▪ ACIP reviews all safety data before recommending use. 	<div style="background-color: #800000; color: white; padding: 5px; text-align: center; font-weight: bold;">After Authorization ↻</div> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ FDA and CDC closely monitor vaccine safety and side effects. There are systems in place that allow CDC and FDA to watch for safety issues.
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Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System
www.vaers.hhs.gov



v-safe
after vaccination
health checker

Source: CDC Community-Based Organizations Vaccine Toolkit



After ANY vaccines are authorized and in use, both FDA and CDC continue to monitor their safety. Existing systems can rapidly detect possible vaccine safety problems. These systems are being scaled up for COVID-19 vaccine introduction to fully meet the needs of the nation. Additional systems and data sources are also being developed to further enhance safety monitoring capabilities.

There are multiple systems in place that allow CDC and FDA to watch for safety issues:

- **CDC - V-safe:** A new smartphone-based, after-vaccination health checker for people who receive COVID-19 vaccines. V-safe uses text messaging and web surveys from CDC to check in with vaccine recipients following COVID-19 vaccination. V-safe also provides second vaccine dose reminders if needed, and telephone follow up to anyone who reports medically significant (important) adverse events.
- **CDC and FDA - Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System (VAERS):** The national system that collects reports from healthcare professionals, vaccine manufacturers, and the public of adverse events that happen after vaccination; reports of adverse events that are unexpected, appear to happen more often than expected, or have unusual patterns are followed up with specific studies.

Vaccine Effectiveness

Source: U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention “COVID-19 Vaccines Work” webpage.

COVID-19 vaccination will help keep you from getting COVID-19. Getting a COVID-19 vaccine will help create an immune response in your body against the virus without your having to experience illness. Based on what is known about vaccines for other diseases, experts believe that getting a COVID-19 vaccine may help keep you from getting seriously ill even if you do get COVID-19.

COVID-19 vaccines will help protect you from getting sick or severely ill with COVID-19.

- Large-scale clinical studies found that COVID-19 vaccination prevented most people from getting COVID-19.
- All COVID-19 vaccines available in the United States are effective at preventing COVID-19.
- It typically takes about 2 weeks for the body to build protection after vaccination. That means it is possible you could still get COVID-19 soon after vaccination. This is because your body has not had enough time to build full protection.
- Some people who are fully vaccinated against COVID-19 will still get sick because the vaccines are not 100% effective against COVID-19 illness.
- Based on data from clinical studies, COVID-19 vaccine may also help keep you from getting seriously ill, even if you do get COVID-19.

We are all still learning.

Although COVID-19 vaccines are effective at keeping people who have been vaccinated from getting sick, scientists are still learning how well vaccines prevent them from spreading the virus that causes COVID-19 to others, even if they do not have symptoms. Early data show the vaccines do help keep people with no symptoms from spreading COVID-19, but we are learning more as more people get vaccinated.



We're also still learning how long COVID-19 vaccines protect people. For these reasons, people who have been fully vaccinated against COVID-19 should keep taking precautions in public places like wearing a mask, staying 6 feet apart from others, avoiding crowds and poorly ventilated spaces, and washing your hands often.

COVID-19 vaccines and new variants of the virus.

New variants of the virus that causes COVID-19 illness have emerged. Current data suggest that COVID-19 vaccines used in the United States should work against these variants. For this reason, COVID-19 vaccines are an essential tool to protect people against COVID-19, including against new variants. CDC recommends getting vaccinated as soon as vaccine is available to you.

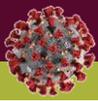
Evidence is limited on how the new COVID-19 variants will affect how COVID-19 vaccines work in real-world conditions. CDC has systems in place to monitor how common these variants are and to look for the emergence of new variants. CDC will continue to monitor variants to see if they have any impact on how COVID-19 vaccines work in real-world conditions.

Vaccine Effectiveness

- All COVID-19 vaccines currently available in the United States are **effective** at preventing COVID-19.
- COVID-19 vaccination is an important tool to help stop the COVID-19 pandemic.
- COVID-19 vaccines help protect people who get vaccinated from getting sick or severely ill with COVID-19 and may also help protect people around them.
- CDC recommends you get a COVID-19 vaccine as soon one is available to you.
- Experts continue to monitor and evaluate how COVID-19 vaccination may affect the severity of illness from COVID-19, as well as its ability to keep people from spreading the virus that causes COVID-19.



Source: CDC - Ensuring COVID-19 Vaccines Work



COVID-19 Vaccine Comparison

There are currently three vaccines approved to prevent the spread of COVID-19 in the United States. These include the [Pfizer-BioNTech](#), [Moderna](#), and [Johnson & Johnson/Janssen](#) vaccines.

	Pfizer-BioNTech	Moderna	Johnson & Johnson
Number of Doses	2 doses, 21 days apart	2 doses, 28 days apart	1 dose
How the Vaccine Works	mRNA vaccine that teaches cells to make a spike protein from COVID-19	mRNA vaccine that teaches cells to make a spike protein from COVID-19	Viral vector vaccine that enters your cells to make a spike protein from COVID-19
Demographics of Clinical Trial Participants	82% White, 26% Hispanic, 10% African American, 4% Asian, 21% 65 or older, 50% male/female	79% White, 20% Hispanic, 10% African American, 5% Asian, 23% 65 or older, 53% male, 47% female	59% White, 45% Hispanic, 10% Native American/Alaska Native, 19% African American, 3% Asian, 20% 65+, 55% male, 45% female
Most Common Side Effects	Pain, redness, swelling, tiredness, headache, muscle pain, chills, fever, nausea	Pain, redness, swelling, tiredness, headache, muscle pain, chills, fever, nausea	Pain, redness, swelling, tiredness, headache, muscle pain, chills, fever, nausea
Clinical Trial Size	18,904 people	15,208 people	13,934 people
Protection from Illness	95% effective	94% effective	66% effective
Allergen Information	Does not contain eggs, preservatives, latex	Does not contain eggs, preservatives, latex	Does not contain eggs, preservatives, latex
Protection from Variants	94% effective in Israel where 80% of infections are UK variant, worked less well against South African variant	Not tested against real variants, tested against pseudovirus similar to UK variant and worked well, less well against South African variant	64% effective in South Africa where 95% of infections are caused by South Africa variant, not tested against UK or Brazilian variants
Protection from Hospitalization/Death	Nearly 100% (7-14 days after 2 nd dose)	Nearly 100% (at least 14 days after 2 nd dose)	Nearly 100% (at least 28 days after vaccination)
Protection from Severe Disease	100% (9 cases in placebo, 0 in vaccine arm)	100% (30 cases in placebo, 0 in vaccine arm)	85% in South Africa, US, and Latin America

Sources: [CDC](#), [FDA](#), [FDA](#), [FDA](#)



Getting Vaccinated

The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommends that people get the COVID-19 as soon as they are eligible. Vaccination is provided based on local prioritization strategies and PEH are being prioritized for vaccine access in many communities. Depending on the community in which they live, PEH may be able to receive vaccinations on-site at shelters, day centers, or when visited by mobile vaccination outreach teams in encampments and other places unsheltered people congregate. Regardless of where or when PEH are able to receive their vaccine, they can be confident that the [COVID-19 vaccine](#) they receive is effective at protecting people from getting sick. This information will help you support PEH as they prepare for their COVID-19 vaccination.

What to Expect

When someone gets a vaccine, both they and the healthcare provider administering the vaccine will need to wear a mask that covers their nose and mouth. The vaccination process is usually very fast with a simple injection although there may be a long line or wait when you arrive. Many people say that the actual vaccine is less painful than other vaccines they have taken for the flu, hepatitis, or tetanus.

After getting the vaccine, the person will be asked to wait for 15-30 minutes before leaving the vaccine sites. It is important to stay and to report any concerns or reactions to health professionals on site so that they provide care in the unlikely event of an adverse reaction.

People receiving the Pfizer-BioNTech or Moderna vaccines will need to schedule another appointment to receive their second dose of the vaccine within the recommended timeframe.

Don't get a COVID-19 vaccine at the same time as other vaccines.

Wait at least 14 days after your COVID-19 vaccine before getting any other vaccine, including a flu or shingles vaccine. Or if you have recently received any other vaccine first, wait at least 14 days before getting your COVID-19 vaccine.

However, if you do get a COVID-19 vaccine within 14 days of another vaccine, you do not need to be revaccinated with either vaccine. You should still complete both vaccine series on schedule. When we have more data on the [safety](#) and [effectiveness](#) of COVID-19 vaccines given at the same time as other vaccines, CDC may update this recommendation.

About taking medication before getting vaccinated.

For most people, it is not recommended to avoid, discontinue, or delay medications for underlying medical conditions around the time of COVID-19 vaccination. However, a person's healthcare provider should talk to them about what is currently known and not known about the effectiveness of getting a COVID-19 vaccine when taking medications that suppress the immune system.

People should not take over-the-counter medicine – such as ibuprofen, aspirin, or acetaminophen – before vaccination to prevent vaccine-related side effects. It is not known how these medications might affect how well the vaccine works. However, if someone takes these medications regularly for other reasons, they should keep taking them before they get vaccinated. It is also not recommended to take antihistamines before getting a COVID-19 vaccine to try to prevent allergic reactions. Talk to your doctor or vaccination provider if you have questions about medications that you are taking.



What to expect after getting a COVID-19 vaccine.

People may experience common side effects like pain, redness, or swelling at the injection site or mild flu-like symptoms after getting a COVID-19 vaccine. Rest, over-the-counter pain medicine, and hydrating with fluids can help reduce these side effects.

It takes time for the body to build protection after any vaccination. People are considered fully vaccinated 2 weeks after their second dose of the Pfizer-BioNtech or Moderna COVID-19 vaccines, or 2 weeks after the single-dose J&J/Janssen COVID-19 vaccine. People should continue using all the tools available to protect themselves and others until they are fully vaccinated.

After someone is fully vaccinated against COVID-19, they may be able to start doing some things that they had stopped doing because of the pandemic. Learn more about what you can do when you have been fully vaccinated.

Conclusion

There are currently three available vaccines to protect people in the United States from COVID-19. Each of these vaccines are effective in preventing COVID-19 illness. Although there are differences between the three vaccines, it is important to remember that each of the vaccines has undergone extensive review and is proven to be safe and effective. People may be asking themselves – which vaccine is the right vaccine for me?

The answer is clear – any vaccine is the best vaccine to protect yourself, your loved ones, and your community against COVID-19.



the best
vaccine is
the vaccine
you can get
right now