

## COVID-19 VACCINE SAFETY

# What You Should Know

### COVID Vaccines are Safe and Effective

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has granted Emergency Use Authorizations (EUA) for two COVID-19 vaccines: Pfizer/BioNTech and Moderna.



### That EUA was granted after the vaccines were shown to be:



**Safe** for use following in large clinical trials of more than 70,000 people



Shown to be **effective** at preventing the contraction of the disease – The Pfizer/BioNTech vaccine showed 95% efficacy and the Moderna was 94.1% effective



Produced or manufactured consistently, safely and at a high quality

### Here's why we can trust the vaccines:

- + All COVID-19 vaccines currently available in the United States have been shown to be effective at preventing COVID-19.
- + All COVID-19 vaccines that are in development are being carefully evaluated in clinical trials and will be authorized or approved only if they are shown to be safe and make it substantially less likely you'll get COVID-19.
- + Experts believe that getting a COVID-19 vaccine may also help keep you from getting seriously ill even if you do get COVID-19.
- + Getting vaccinated yourself may also protect people around you, **particularly people at increased risk for severe illness from COVID-19.**
- + Experts continue to conduct more studies about the effect of COVID-19 vaccination on severity of illness from COVID-19, as well as its ability to keep people from spreading the virus that causes COVID-19.

### mRNA

**Both Moderna's vaccine and the one developed by Pfizer-BioNTech use messenger RNA or mRNA.** mRNA vaccines are a new type of vaccine to protect against infectious diseases. To trigger an immune response, many vaccines put a weakened or inactivated germ into our bodies. Not mRNA vaccines. Instead, mRNA vaccines use a piece of genetic code that instructs our cells to create a protein that then triggers an immune response.



### What they are saying:

*"The risk of COVID and the risk of poor outcomes makes it imperative people get vaccinated as soon as it's available to them."*

- **Dr. Nancy Messonnier**  
Director, National Center for Immunization and Respiratory Diseases

*"The speed was not at all at the sacrifice of safety. The speed was the reflection of extraordinary advances in the science of vaccine platform technology."*

- **Dr. Anthony Fauci**  
Director, National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases

*"An mRNA vaccine doesn't actually contain the virus itself. Think of it as an email sent to your immune system that shows what the virus looks like, instructions to kill it, and then — like a Snapchat message — it disappears. Amazing technology."*

- **Dr. Tom Frieden**  
Former Director of the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention