

COVID-19 Vaccine

Quick Reference Guide for
Healthcare Professionals



The table below provides basic information on the proper storage, preparation, and administration of the currently authorized COVID-19 vaccine products in the United States. For additional information and detailed clinical guidance go to the manufacturer's and CDC's webpages listed.

		Pfizer	Moderna	Janssen
GENERAL	EUA	www.fda.gov/emergency-preparedness-and-response/coronavirus-disease-2019-covid-19/pfizer-biontech-covid-19-vaccine	www.fda.gov/emergency-preparedness-and-response/coronavirus-disease-2019-covid-19/moderna-covid-19-vaccine	www.fda.gov/emergency-preparedness-and-response/coronavirus-disease-2019-covid-19/janssen-covid-19-vaccine
	CDC Vaccine Information	www.cdc.gov/vaccines/covid-19/info-by-product/pfizer/index.html	www.cdc.gov/vaccines/covid-19/info-by-product/moderna/index.html	www.cdc.gov/vaccines/covid-19/info-by-product/janssen/index.html
	Manufacturer Contact information	Website: www.cvdvaccine.com Medical information: 800-438-1985 Customer service: 800-879-3477	Website: www.modernatx.com Medical Information: 866-663-3762	Website: www.vaxcheck.inj Medical information: 1-800-565-4008
STORAGE & HANDLING	How supplied	Multidose vial: 6 doses	Multidose vial: Maximum of 11 doses Multidose vial: Maximum of 15 doses	Multidose vial: 5 doses
	Diluent	0.9% sodium chloride (preservative-free, normal saline) provided in the ancillary kit. Do NOT use other diluent.	None	None
	Storage Temperatures: Before Puncture	Between: -80°C and -60°C (-112°F and -76°F) until the expiration date -25°C and -15°C (-13°F and 5°F) for up to 2 weeks 2°C and 8°C (36°F and 46°F) for up to 1 month (31 days).	Between: -50°C and -15°C (-58°F and 5°F) until the expiration date 2°C and 8°C (36°F and 46°F) for up to 30 days 8°C and 25°C (46° and 77°F) for a total of 24 hours	Between: 2°C and 8°C (36°F and 46°F) until the expiration date.
	Storage Temperatures: After puncture	Between: 2°C to 25°C (36°F to 77°F) for up to 6 hours. Discard any unused vaccine after 6 hours.	Between: 2°C and 25°C (36°F and 77°F) for up to 12 hours. Discard any unused vaccine after 12 hours.	Between: 2°C and 8°C (36°F and 46°F) for up to 6 hours. 9°C and 25°C (47°F and 77°F) for up to 2 hours. Discard any unused vaccine after these time frames.
	Transport Temperatures: Before Puncture	Between: -80°C and -60°C (-112°F and -76°F) -25°C and -15°C (-13°F and 5°F) 2°C and 8°C (36°F and 46°F)	Between: -50°C and -15°C (-58°F and 5°F) 2°C and 8°C (36°F and 46°F) for up to 12 cumulative hours.	Between: 2°C and 8°C (36°F and 46°F)
	Transport Temperatures*: After Puncture	Between: 2°C to 25°C (36°F to 77°F) for up to 6 hours.	Between: 2°C and 25°C (36°F and 77°F) for up to 12 hours.	Between: 2°C and 8°C (36°F and 46°F) for up to 6 hours
Type of Vaccine	mRNA	mRNA	Viral vector	
Age Indications	12 years of age and older	18 years of age and older	18 years of age and older	
Schedule[†]	2-doses, separated by 21 days. Both doses must be Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine	2 doses, separated by 28 days. Both doses should be Moderna vaccine	1 dose only	
Dosage	0.3 mL	0.5 mL	0.5 mL	
Needle gauge/length	12 through 18 years of age: 22–25 gauge, 1" 19 years of age and older: 22–25 gauge, 1 – 1½"	22–25 gauge, 1 – 1½"	22–25 gauge, 1 – 1½"	

*CDC recommends transporting vaccine at refrigerated or frozen temperatures.

†COVID-19 vaccines and other vaccines may be administered on the same day, as well as within 14 days of each other. When deciding if to administer COVID-19 vaccines and other vaccines, providers should consider whether the patient is behind or at risk of becoming behind on recommended vaccines, their risk of vaccine-preventable diseases (e.g., during an outbreak), and the reactogenicity profile of the vaccines.

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	Pfizer	Moderna	Janssen
Route	Intramuscular (IM) injection	Intramuscular (IM) injection	Intramuscular (IM) injection
Site	Deltoid	Deltoid	Deltoid
Thawing Frozen Vaccine	Between: 2°C and 8°C (36°F and 46°F) or Room temperature up to 25°C (77°F) Do NOT refreeze thawed vaccine.	Between: 2°C and 8°C (36°F and 46°F) or 8°C to 25°C (46°F to 77°F) Do NOT refreeze thawed vaccine.	N/A
Mixing Vaccine	Mix vaccine with 1.8 mL of 0.9% sodium chloride (preservative-free, normal saline)	Do NOT mix with any diluent	Do NOT mix with any diluent
VACCINE ADMINISTRATION	<p>Contraindications</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Severe allergic reaction (e.g., anaphylaxis) after a previous dose or to a component of the COVID-19 vaccine Immediate allergic reaction† of any severity to a previous dose or known (diagnosed) allergy to a component of the vaccine <p>Note: Persons who have a contraindication to an mRNA COVID-19 vaccine (Moderna or Pfizer-BioNTech) may be able to receive the Janssen COVID-19 vaccine (see footnote).‡</p> <p>Persons who have a contraindication to Janssen COVID-19 vaccine may be able to receive an mRNA COVID-19 vaccine (see footnote).‡</p> <p>Contraindications/Precautions</p> <p>Precautions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Most people determined to have a precaution to a COVID-19 vaccine at their appointment can and should be administered vaccine. History of an immediate allergic reaction† to any other vaccine or injectable therapy (i.e., intramuscular, intravenous, or subcutaneous vaccines or therapies) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » This includes people with a reaction to a vaccine or injectable therapy that contains multiple components, one of which is a vaccine component, but for whom it is unknown which component elicited the immediate allergic reaction. People with a contraindication to mRNA COVID-19 vaccines have a precaution to Janssen COVID-19 Vaccine, and vice versa. (see footnote).‡ Moderate to severe acute illness <p>See Interim Clinical Considerations for Use of mRNA COVID-19 Vaccines Currently Authorized in the United States www.cdc.gov/vaccines/covid-19/info-by-product/clinical-considerations.html</p>		
	Post-Vaccination Observation	<p>30 minutes: Persons with a history of an immediate allergic reaction of any severity to any other vaccine or injectable therapy or a history of anaphylaxis (from any cause)</p> <p>15 minutes: All other persons</p>	
Most common adverse events	<p>Injection site: pain, swelling, redness</p> <p>Systemic: fatigue, headache, muscle pain, chills, fever, joint pain</p>	<p>Injection site: pain, swelling, redness</p> <p>Systemic: fatigue, headache, muscle pain, chills, fever, nausea, joint pain</p>	<p>Injection site: pain, redness, swelling</p> <p>Systemic: fatigue, headache, muscle pain, nausea, fever</p>

†For the purpose of this guidance, an immediate allergic reaction is defined as any hypersensitivity-related signs or symptoms, such as urticaria, angioedema, respiratory distress (e.g., wheezing, stridor), or anaphylaxis that occur within 4 hours following exposure to a vaccine or medication.

‡Consider consultation with an allergist-immunologist to help determine if the patient can safely receive vaccination. Healthcare providers and health departments may also request a consultation from the Clinical Immunization Safety Assessment COVID vax Project <https://www.cdc.gov/vaccinesafety/ensuringsafety/monitoring/cisa/index.html>. Vaccination of these individuals should only be done in an appropriate setting under the supervision of a healthcare provider experienced in the management of severe allergic reactions.

- People with a contraindication to mRNA COVID-19 vaccines (including due to a known PEG allergy) have a precaution to Janssen COVID-19 vaccination. People who have previously received an mRNA COVID-19 vaccine dose but have a contraindication to a second dose should wait at least 28 days to receive Janssen COVID-19 vaccine.
- People with a contraindication to Janssen COVID-19 vaccine (including due to a known polysorbate allergy) have a precaution to mRNA COVID-19 vaccination.