COVID-19 VACCINES: FACTS FIRST
UPDATED ANSWERS TO COMMON QUESTIONS

WHAT PEOPLE ARE SAYING

“I’ve had cancer twice. I wanted to make sure I was protecting myself. I wanted to take care of me. We’re human beings. That’s our right.”

– Michele Burgess –
Physician Assistant, Roswell Park

“I was going to wait and see. I told myself that I was going to wait six months to a year. I changed my mind after talking to my doctor at Roswell. It may sound a little corny, but Roswell’s got my back!”

– Lavon –
Roswell Park Patient

“What patients with this patient population, we see how horrible infections can be in general. If we can do anything to help with that, the flu shot, the COVID shot, anything we can do. It’s a no-brainer.”

– Marjorie –
Roswell Park Patient

WHAT YOU SHOULD KNOW

The COVID-19 vaccines have the potential to be a great positive force in our lives as individuals, families and communities, but they bring with them so many questions. To help you and your family make an informed decision, Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center has compiled the latest information about these preventive vaccines as well as the firsthand perspectives of individuals.

ABOUT THE COVID-19 VACCINES

✓ Three vaccines have been authorized for emergency use to prevent severe cases of COVID-19, the disease caused by the new coronavirus: The Pfizer-BioNTech, Moderna and Johnson & Johnson/Janssen vaccines.

✓ The U.S. CDC and FDA have determined that all three authorized vaccines are safe and effective, and that the benefits of getting vaccinated outweigh known potential risks. We encourage you to consult with a medical provider if you have questions.

✓ It’s normal to experience side effects such as fever, chills, soreness at the injection site and headaches after receiving a COVID-19 vaccine. These responses are a sign that the vaccine is working and that your body is developing protection against the virus.

✓ Even if you have received one of these vaccines, there is still a small chance you could still get sick with a mild form of the virus, but this is very unlikely.

The three vaccines do not contain any live COVID-19 virus, so a person cannot get sick with COVID-19 just from getting the vaccine.

THE VACCINES DO NOT CHANGE YOUR DNA IN ANY WAY.
### WHO PARTICIPATED IN THE COVID-19 VACCINE TRIALS?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Company</th>
<th>Number of people included in trials</th>
<th>Percentage that identified as male</th>
<th>Percentage that identified as female</th>
<th>Percentage over the age of 65</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pfizer Biontech</td>
<td>More than 43,400</td>
<td>49.4%</td>
<td>50.6%</td>
<td>21.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Moderna</td>
<td>More than 30,400</td>
<td>52.7%</td>
<td>47.3%</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Johnson &amp; Johnson</td>
<td>More than 43,700</td>
<td>52.7%</td>
<td>47.3%</td>
<td>19.5%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Number of study participants deemed **higher risk** for severe COVID-19 infections due to additional medical issues, or comorbidities, for each company:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Company</th>
<th>Number of people</th>
<th>Percentage that identified as male</th>
<th>Percentage that identified as female</th>
<th>Percentage over the age of 65</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pfizer Biontech</td>
<td>More than 18,500</td>
<td>49.4%</td>
<td>50.6%</td>
<td>21.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Moderna</td>
<td>More than 7,300</td>
<td>52.7%</td>
<td>47.3%</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Johnson &amp; Johnson</td>
<td>More than 7,800</td>
<td>52.7%</td>
<td>47.3%</td>
<td>19.5%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### DIFFERENCES AMONG THE VACCINES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Company</th>
<th># of doses</th>
<th>Efficacy Rate*</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pfizer Biontech</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>94-95%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Moderna</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>94-95%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Johnson &amp; Johnson</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>85.4%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- Required number of doses of the vaccine to be fully effective.
- Efficacy rate for preventing severe and critical cases of COVID-19.

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“**There’s no basis to pick one vaccine over another. The most important thing is that all three of the vaccines are highly effective at reducing severe COVID, meaning the number of hospitalizations and deaths.**”

~ Dr. Brahm Segal  
Chair, Internal Medicine, and Chief, Infectious Diseases  
Roswell Park

**MY STRONG ADVICE IS:**  
**IF ONE IS OFFERED TO YOU, TAKE IT.**

For more information, scan the QR code or visit RoswellPark.org/CovidVaccine

Information in Spanish can be found at espanol.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines

STAY SAFE. STAY SMART. GET VACCINATED.