







Side-by-Side Comparison: COVID-19 Vaccines

All of these COVID-19 vaccines will protect you, but here's a side-by-side comparison. Remember to talk with your doctor if you have questions about the vaccine.

	Pfizer	Moderna	Johnson & Johnson (Janssen)	Novavax
Number of doses	2, 21 days apart	2, 28 days apart	1	2, 21 days apart
 Approved for what ages?	6 months+	6 months+	18 years+	12 years+
 Effectiveness against disease in U.S. clinical trials	95% 86% in 65+	94.1% 86% in 65+	72% 86% against severe disease	90.4% 78.6% in 65+
Emergency Use Authorization	Dec. 11, 2020	Dec. 18, 2020	Feb. 27, 2021*	July 12, 2022 ⁺
 Type of vaccine	mRNA		Viral vector	Recombinant protein/ adjuvants
Most common side effects	Fatigue, headache, chills, muscle pain			
 Who should not get the vaccine?	History of allergic reaction to polyethylene glycol, polysorbate or other vaccine ingredients Allergic reaction to first dose		History of severe reaction to vaccine ingredients, risk of rare blood clot in women under age 50	N/A

Disclaimer: A direct comparison of effectiveness between the Pfizer and Moderna vaccines vs. the other vaccines can't be made, as COVID-19 was not as prevalent in the mRNA trials, and the variants had not developed.

* EUA was paused April 13, 2021, and amended April 23, 2021, to include risk of rare blood clot in women under age 50.

⁺EUA was approved for ages 18 years and older on July 12, 2022, and on August 22, 2022, for ages 12-17.

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