

Do you have
questions about
**Pfizer-BioNTech
COVID-19 Vaccine?**

An immunization guide
for those receiving the vaccine
and their caregivers

What it is and how it works / Ingredients

Dosing / Before getting the vaccine

Possible side effects / Helpful resources



This brochure provides important information to help you understand the benefits, risks, and how Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine works. This vaccine has been offered or given to you in response to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine may not protect everyone. Talk to your vaccination provider if you have questions concerning Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine.

What is Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine used for?

The vaccine is used to prevent COVID-19 disease caused by the SARS-CoV-2 virus.

The vaccine can be given to people who are 12 years and older.

How does Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine work?

The vaccine causes our body to produce protection (such as antibodies) that prevent the COVID-19 virus from entering our cells to make us sick.

The vaccine uses a new method (messenger RNA - mRNA, which is the genetic code for a piece of the virus) to help our bodies make protection against the virus.

So, instead of using the live virus, mRNA vaccines teach our cells how to make a protein that will trigger an immune response. Once triggered, our body then makes antibodies (protection). These antibodies help us fight infection if the real virus does enter our body in the future.

The vaccine is given by injection with a needle in the upper arm and will require **2 doses** given 21 days apart.

You cannot get COVID-19 from the vaccine.

As with any vaccine, Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine may not fully protect all those who receive it.

Who should not receive Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine?

You should **not** receive the vaccine if you:

- have any symptoms that could be due to COVID-19. Talk with your healthcare professional about your symptoms and getting a COVID-19 test. Your healthcare professional will advise you when you are able to receive the vaccine
- had a severe allergic reaction after a previous dose of this vaccine
- **are allergic to any of the ingredients in this vaccine**

Medicinal ingredient: mRNA

Non-medicinal ingredients:

- ALC-0315 = ((4-hydroxybutyl)azanediyl) bis(hexane-6,1-diyl)bis(2-hexyldecanoate)
- ALC-0159 = 2-[(polyethylene glycol)-2000]-N,N-ditetradecylacetamide
- 1,2-Distearoyl-sn-glycero-3-phosphocholine
- cholesterol
- dibasic sodium phosphate dihydrate
- monobasic potassium phosphate
- potassium chloride
- sodium chloride
- sucrose
- water for injection

It is important to remember that even after you have had both doses of the vaccine, you should continue to follow the recommendations of local public health officials to help prevent the spread of COVID-19.

It is important to remember to tell your vaccination provider of any severe allergies you have, including food/medication/other allergies, before getting vaccinated.

How is Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine given?

Usual dose:



Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine is injected into a muscle of your upper arm (after dilution as an injection of 0.3 mL).

You will receive 2 injections, given 21 days apart



First injection



21 days



Second injection

2 doses

It is very important that you return for the second injection, or the vaccine may not work as well.

Individuals who have received one dose of Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine should receive a second dose of Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine to complete the vaccination series, as there are no data available on the interchangeability of Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine with other COVID-19 vaccines to complete the vaccination series.

It may take until 7 days after the second dose of Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine to develop protection against COVID-19.

If you have any further questions on the use of Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine, ask your vaccination provider.

What do I do if I miss my second dose?

If you forget to go back to your vaccination provider at the scheduled time for your next dose, ask your vaccination provider/centre for advice.

What should I let my vaccination provider know before getting Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine?

To help avoid side effects, you should talk about any health conditions or problems you may have, including if you:

- have had any problems following previous administration of Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine, such as an allergic reaction or breathing problems
- have allergies
- have a weakened immune system due to a medical condition or are on a medicine that affects your immune system
- have a bleeding problem, bruise easily or use a blood-thinning medication
- have previously had episodes of myocarditis and/or pericarditis
- are pregnant, think you may be pregnant or plan to become pregnant
- are breast-feeding

Tell your vaccination provider about all medicines you take, including any drugs, vitamins, minerals, natural supplements or alternative medicines.

There is no information on the use of Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine with other vaccines. Tell your vaccination provider if you have recently received any other vaccine.

What are possible side effects from Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine?

Like all vaccines, Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine can cause side effects.

Side effects may occur at the following frequencies:

- Very common (may affect more than 1 in 10 people): pain at injection site, tiredness, headache, muscle pain, chills, joint pain, fever, diarrhea
- Common (may affect more than 1 in 100 and up to 1 in 10 people): injection-site redness, injection-site swelling, nausea, vomiting
- Uncommon (may affect up to 1 in 100 people): enlarged lymph nodes, feeling unwell, arm pain

Non-severe allergic reactions (such as rash, itching, hives or swelling of the face) and severe allergic reactions have been reported.

These are not all the possible side effects you may experience from the vaccine. If you experience a side effect not listed here, you should talk to your vaccination provider.

There is a remote chance that Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine could cause a severe allergic reaction. A severe allergic reaction would usually occur within a few minutes to one hour after getting a dose of Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine. For this reason, your vaccination provider may ask you to stay at the place where you received your vaccine for monitoring after vaccination. Should you develop any serious symptoms or symptoms that could be an allergic reaction, seek medical attention right away. Symptoms of an allergic reaction include:

- hives (bumps on the skin that are often very itchy)
- swelling of the face, tongue or throat
- difficulty breathing
- a fast heartbeat
- dizziness and weakness

If you experience a severe allergic reaction, call 9-1-1, or go to the nearest hospital.

Reporting a Side Effect

Should you experience a side effect following immunization or require information related to the management of the side effect, please contact your doctor.

If you experience a side effect following immunization, please complete the [Adverse Events Following Immunization \(AEFI\)](#) form appropriate for your province/territory and send it to your local Health Unit.

We also encourage you to visit our designated safety web portal, where you can efficiently and seamlessly report your experience with Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine. You can access this web portal at www.pfizersafetyreporting.com.

Stay up to date on the latest information on COVID-19

Take a look at the following useful links:

- Health Canada at www.canada.ca/en/health-canada.html
- Public Health Agency of Canada at www.canada.ca/en/public-health/
- Immunize Canada at www.immunize.ca

**It's important that you remember
your second dose to help protect
against COVID-19!**

Use the dose reminder section below
to help you remember your next
immunization date.

COMPLETE THE SERIES WITH YOUR 2ND DOSE of Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine

Full name: _____

Vaccination site: _____

Batch/lot number: _____

1st dose: D D / M M / Y Y Y Y 2nd dose: D D / M M / Y Y Y Y
(21 days after 1st dose)

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Distributed for BioNTech Manufacturing GmbH An der Goldgrube 12,
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