

FAQ: Moderna COVID-19 Vaccine

What is the Moderna COVID-19 vaccine?

The Moderna COVID-19 Vaccine is an unapproved vaccine that may prevent COVID-19. There is no FDA-approved vaccine to prevent COVID-19. The FDA has authorized the emergency use of the Moderna COVID-19 Vaccine to prevent COVID-19 in individuals 18 years of age and older under an Emergency Use Authorization (EUA).

When should patients get the second dose of the Moderna COVID-19 vaccine?

For the Moderna COVID-19 vaccine, a second dose should be administered 28 days after the first dose. (For the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine, the window is 21 days.)

What are the possible side effects of the vaccine?

Side effects that have been reported with the Moderna COVID-19 Vaccine include:

- Injection site (arm): pain, swelling, redness
- Throughout the body: fatigue, headache, chills

These side effects usually start within a day or two of getting the vaccine. They might feel like flu symptoms and may impact your ability to do daily activities, but they should go away in a few days.

Do some people have allergic reactions to the vaccine?

There were no anaphylactic or severe hypersensitivity reactions reported following vaccination with Moderna COVID-19 Vaccine during clinical trials.

However, individuals with a known history of a severe allergic reaction (e.g., anaphylaxis) to a previous dose or to any component of the Moderna COVID-19 Vaccine should consult with their doctor before receiving the vaccine. Signs of a severe allergic reaction can include:

- Difficulty breathing
- Swelling of your face and throat
- A fast heartbeat
- A bad rash all over your body
- Dizziness and weakness

Appropriate medical treatment to manage immediate allergic reactions must be immediately available.

How well does the Moderna vaccine prevent COVID-19?

The vaccine was found to be 94.1% effective in preventing COVID-19 disease among clinical trial participants.

The data to support the FDA's Emergency Authorization include an analysis of 28,207 participants in the ongoing randomized, placebo-controlled U.S. study who did not have evidence of SARS-CoV-2 infection prior to the first dose of vaccine. Among these participants, 14,134 received the vaccine and 14,073 received placebo. The vaccine was 94.1% effective in preventing COVID-19 disease among these clinical trial participants with 11 cases of COVID-19 in the vaccine group and 185 cases in the placebo group. At the time of the analysis of these 196 COVID-19 cases, 0 in the vaccine group and 30 in the placebo group were classified as severe.

Can the Moderna COVID-19 vaccine infect me with the virus?

No. The Moderna COVID-19 Vaccine does not contain SARS-CoV-2 and cannot give you COVID-19.

Can pregnant or nursing persons receive the Moderna COVID-19 Vaccine?

While there have been no specific studies in these groups, there is no contraindication to receipt of the vaccine for those who are pregnant or nursing. Pregnant or nursing persons should discuss their options with their healthcare providers.

Can people who have already had COVID-19 get the vaccine?

Yes. Limited data suggest that previously infected individuals can be at risk of COVID-19 (i.e., reinfection) and may benefit from vaccination.

Did clinical trial participation include members of racial or ethnic groups at greater risk from COVID-19?

Yes. Overall, 20.5% of participants identified themselves as Hispanic or Latino, 10.2% as African American or Black, 4.6% as Asian, 0.8% as American Indian or Alaska Native, 0.2% as Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander, 2.1% identified their race as other, and 2.1% as multiracial. The demographic characteristics were similar among participants who received Moderna COVID-19 Vaccine and those who received placebo.

KEEP YOUR VACCINATION CARD

When you receive your first dose, you will get a vaccination card to show you when to return for your second dose of the Moderna COVID-19 Vaccine. Remember to bring your card when you return, or ask to have it stapled to your consent form until you receive your 2nd dose.