VACCINE OPTIONS

Texas Nurses COVID-19 Task Force

TEXAS NURSES FOUNDATION

AUTHORIZED VACCINES

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration has two options for evaluating vaccines. Vaccines are ***approved*** when they have substantial evidence of safety and effectiveness. Being new, the COVID-19 vaccines are under Emergency Use Authorization, which considers the best available evidence. These ***authorized*** vaccines are still highly safe and very effective.

Before EUA, the three trials had

117,000+

participants who got either the vaccine or a placebo and were tracked for a minimum of two months without major side effects.

Why get vaccinated?

Getting vaccinated is one of the best ways to stop the spread of COVID-19 and reduce the risk of illness and death. However, mask wearing is still recommended until the majority of the population is vaccinated. Vaccinated people can still catch the virus and potentially pass it on, although researchers have found ***vaccines can reduce transmission*** of the virus.

The vaccines reduce severe to moderate disease from COVID-19 by

77-95%

and prevent hospitalization and death

100%

WHAT TO EXPECT

All the vaccines cause some side effects. At the injection site, you may see redness, swelling, tenderness or pain. After the vaccine starts working, you may experience headache, fatigue, fever or nausea. Some people report worse side effects after the second shot of Pfizer or Moderna.

Vaccine Comparison

All three vaccines authorized by the FDA as of March use different technologies and have different dose amounts. You are considered fully vaccinated two weeks after getting your final vaccine.

Pfizer

- Two doses, 21 days apart
- mRNA vaccine: Contains code for the coronavirus spike protein
  - The spike protein is harmless.
  - The code will dissolve after a few days.

Moderna

- Two doses, 28 days apart
- mRNA vaccine: Contains code for the coronavirus spike protein
  - The spike protein is harmless.
  - The code will dissolve after a few days.

Janssen (Johnson & Johnson)

- One dose
- Vector vaccine: Uses a weak virus with code for the coronavirus spike protein
  - The virus (not the coronavirus) is harmless.
  - The spike protein is harmless.