

COVID-19 Vaccine

Fact Sheet

Updated: 01/01/2021

What Vaccines are Available?

Pfizer-BioNTech

On Dec. 11, the FDA issued an Emergency Use Authorization (EUA) for the Pfizer/BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine for use in individuals 16 years and older. The vaccine is given in 2 doses, with the second dose given 21 days after the initial dose.

Moderna

On Dec. 18, the FDA issued an Emergency Use Authorization (EUA) for the Moderna COVID-19 Vaccine for use in individuals 18 years and older. The vaccine is given in 2 doses, with the second dose given 28 days after the initial dose.

How Effective are the Vaccines?

Pfizer-BioNTech

Provides 95% protection against symptomatic Covid-19 infection with two doses of the vaccine.

Moderna

Provides 94.5% protection against symptomatic Covid-19 infection with two doses of the vaccine.

When Will I Get the Vaccine?

Maine Distribution Plans

It will take months for enough vaccine to be produced for everyone, so Maine is following vaccine priority recommendations from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

As vaccine supply becomes more available, these recommendations may change.

Vaccine Priority Phases

Phase 1

1a: Health care workers and residents of long-term care facilities

1b: People age 75 and older and frontline essential workers

1c: People ages 65-74, people ages 16-64 with high-risk medical conditions, and other essential workers

Phase 2

All people ages 16 and older who are not in Phase 1. During this phase, the vaccine will become available to the general public.

Ask your healthcare provider about any questions or concerns.

More information can be found at:
<https://www.maine.gov/covid19/vaccines>

Frequently Asked Questions

How do we know the vaccines are safe?

- The COVID-19 vaccines were tested in large clinical trials to make sure they meet safety standards. Many people of different ages, races, and ethnicities, as well as those with different medical conditions were recruited to participate in these trials.

How is the vaccine given?

- Both the Pfizer-BioNTech Vaccine and the Moderna Vaccine involve two injections in the arm.

What are the side effects of the vaccines?

- Side effects may include injection site pain, swelling, and redness; tiredness; headache; muscle pain; chills; fever; joint pain; nausea; feeling unwell; and swollen lymph nodes. There is a very small risk of a severe allergic reaction, which may include difficulty breathing, swelling of the face and throat, fast heartbeat, rash all over the body, dizziness, and weakness.

How long will protection from COVID-19 last?

- At this time, we do not know how long the vaccines provide protection from COVID-19 infection. More information will become available in the months ahead.

Do the vaccines prevent me from passing the virus to others?

- At this time, we do not know if the vaccines protect people from carrying the virus without symptoms and passing the virus to unvaccinated people. For this reason, it is recommended to continue wearing masks and social distancing after you receive the vaccine.

Should I get the vaccine if I am pregnant or breastfeeding?

- The current vaccines have not been tested in pregnant women. However, the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists recommends the COVID-19 vaccines should be offered to pregnant individuals who meet criteria for vaccination. In addition, they recommend that COVID-19 vaccines should be offered to individuals who are breastfeeding, if they meet criteria. However, it is recommended that all individuals discuss the risks and benefits with their healthcare provider.

What medical conditions are considered high-risk for vaccine priority?

- The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) considers the following conditions to be high-risk: pregnancy, cancer, chronic kidney disease, COPD, heart conditions, immunocompromised state, obesity, sickle cell disease, smoking, and type 2 diabetes mellitus.

Who is considered a "frontline essential worker" for vaccine priority?

- The CDC considers the following professions as frontline essential workers: first responders, people working in the education/daycare sector, food and agriculture workers, manufacturing workers, corrections workers, Postal Service workers, public transit workers, and grocery store workers.