

Cornerstone Pediatrics

COVID-19 Vaccine Overview (front side)

Pfizer BioNTech and Moderna

How does the mRNA COVID-19 vaccine work?



- The vaccine is made of Messenger RNA (mRNA) wrapped in a coating that makes delivery easy and keeps the body from damaging it.
- Messenger RNA (mRNA) vaccines teach our cells how to make a protein that triggers an immune response.
- After the mRNA delivers the instructions, the cells break it down and get rid of it.
- The vaccine does not contain any virus. It cannot give you COVID-19. It cannot change the DNA in any way.
- The vaccine does not contain eggs, preservatives, or latex.

Getting the Vaccine



- COVID-19 vaccines are effective.
- CDC recommends getting a COVID-19 vaccine as soon as eligible.
- Only those *exactly* the age approved are eligible for the vaccine.
- The shot is given in the muscle of the upper arm.
- Pfizer BioNTech – Full vaccination requires 2 shots, 21 days apart.
- Moderna – Full vaccination requires 2 shots, 28 days apart.
- The different types of COVID-19 vaccines are NOT interchangeable.
- The patient may get the COVID-19 vaccine if they have already had or think they may have had the virus.
- It is recommended to wait at least 14 days before and 14 days after receiving COVID-19 vaccine to receive **ANY** other vaccines. This applies to both 1st and 2nd doses.
- Patients will be asked to stay for 15-30 minutes after the vaccine so they can be observed for any adverse reactions.
- Potential side effects include swelling, redness and pain at injection site, fever, headache, tiredness, muscle pain, chills, or nausea.

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After the Vaccine



- The vaccine takes a couple of weeks to build the antibodies after the 2nd dose.
- "Fully vaccinated" occurs two weeks after the 2nd dose.
- If a person happens to be exposed to COVID-19 shortly before the 1st dose and in the two-week window after the 2nd dose, there is a chance they may still become ill with the virus.

Activity Post Vaccination



- **When to wear a mask-**
 - Attending medium to large group gatherings.
 - Being around others that are at increased risk for severe illness to COVID-19.
 - Public areas that require masks.
- **When not to wear a mask-**
 - Visit inside a home or private setting with other fully vaccinated people of any age.

Cornerstone Pediatrics is following the CDC and FDA

recommendations on the safety and effectiveness of vaccinating our patients. This handout provides a summary of information only. Please visit [cdc.gov/coronavirus/vaccine](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/vaccine) website to make the most informed decision for you and your family.

Important Contacts

Cornerstone Pediatrics 256-461-7440

www.cornerstonepediatrics.org

The Alabama COVID-19 Hotline 1-800-270-7268

alabamapublichealth.gov/covid19

cdc.gov/coronavirus/vaccine