

PFIZER COVID-19 VIRUS FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS



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Is it possible for the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine to give you COVID-19?

This is not possible because the COVID-19 vaccine is a small portion of the COVID-19 RNA virus. Because it is not a complete virus it cannot cause a COVID-19 infection. The small portion of the RNA from the COVID-19 virus in the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine triggers an immune response in our body, and this reduces the risk of subsequent COVID-19 infection by 95%. This vaccine is a two dose vaccine that is given 21 days apart. The vaccine will start protecting against COVID-19 infection in as early as 14 days.

How long will the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine protect against infection?

This is not completely known as the vaccine has only been studied for four months. With the information that we do know the vaccine has been known to show 95% protective against COVID-19 infection for 4 months and there is no evidence of the vaccine losing its effectiveness at this time.

Can receiving the Pfizer vaccine (RNA vaccine) alter your DNA?

No RNA is not able to alter or modify a person's genetic makeup (DNA).

Can getting vaccinated with the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine help prevent patients from getting sick?

Yes, there was a 95% reduction in the number of COVID-19 infections and there also was a marked reduction in the number of patients with severe COVID-19 infection.

The approval process for the Pfizer vaccine was very quick. How do we know the vaccine is safe?

There were over 38,000 patients in the Pfizer study and they were followed for 2 months after the last vaccination dose. There were no deaths in the patients who receive the COVID-19 vaccine. The way Operation Warp Speed shortened the timeline for the vaccine to be approved and distributed is that multiple steps in the vaccination process were done simultaneously. There were also vaccine technologies that have evolved after SARS and MERS. The safety of the Pfizer vaccine will continue in the post emergency use authorization phase.

What are the side effects of the Pfizer vaccine?

Side effects in the phase 3 Pfizer trial were local side effects of pain and swelling at the injection site as well as mild to moderate systemic side effects including body aches, low grade fever, and chills.

How many doses of the Pfizer vaccine will be required?

The Pfizer vaccine will require 2 doses 21 days apart.

What happens if I received the first dose of the vaccine but not the second dose?

There is no clinical data to answer this question, however if you only receive 1 vaccine dose without the booster 21 days later you will only receive a fraction of the protection compared to the two dose strategy.

Will the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine cause a positive COVID-19 PCR test?

The Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine can cause a positive COVID-19 antibody test which signifies previous infection, however it will not cause a positive COVID-19 PCR test unless there is the rare (14 patients out of 15,000 patients) where the vaccine was not completely effective in preventing a COVID-19 infection.

Can a patient with a previous COVID-19 infection be vaccinated with the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine?

Yes

What is the role of the FDA (Food and Drug Administration) in vaccine approval?

The FDA established requirements for vaccine approval prior to phase three trials. They mandated safety data for greater than 50% of patients in the study. They mandated ethnic diversity. They mandated that all adult patients be studied including elderly.

How is the Pfizer vaccine distributed?

We will be getting the distribution of the Pfizer vaccine at San Carlos through the Indian Health Service (IHS). Preparations for storage in the ultracold temperatures have been completed at San Carlos.

When will vaccines become available to health care workers?

It is anticipated the first vaccine distribution for health care workers will occur on the week of December 14, 2020.

When will the COVID-19 vaccines be available to the general public?

The general population could start receiving COVID-19 vaccines by the second quarter of 2021.

Can you give one dose of the Pfizer vaccine and one dose of the Moderna vaccine?

No! Each vaccine requires an initial vaccine followed by a subsequent booster vaccine. The vaccines are not identical and are not interchangeable.

Do I need to wear a mask after I received the COVID-19 vaccine?

Yes. The CDC recommends that during the pandemic people wear a mask even after receiving a COVID-19 vaccine.

Does immunity from getting COVID-19 last longer than the protection from the COVID-19 vaccine?

This is unknown. We do not know how long natural immunity from a COVID-19 infection will last and we do not know how long the vaccine immunity will last.