

# COVID-19 Vaccination: Key Facts

Dentists, as trusted health care providers, have an opportunity to serve as a resource for evidence-based information, helping to educate colleagues and the public about the COVID-19 vaccination. Answering questions, helping to allay concerns, and providing up-to-date guidance based on available data will enable individuals to make informed decisions regarding the COVID-19 vaccination and bring us closer to putting an end to the current pandemic.

## Status of COVID-19 vaccines in the U.S.

- Only a vaccine with Emergency Use Authorization (EUA) or approval from the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) can be administered in the U.S.

	Initial EUA (adults)	Second EUA (adolescents)	FDA Approval	Second/Third Dose EUA*
<a href="#">Pfizer-BioNTech</a> (2 doses)	December 11, 2020 (≥16 years of age)	May 10, 2021 (12 – 15 years of age)	August 23, 2021 (name: Comirnaty) (16 years of age or older)	September 22, 2021 (immunocompromised or age ≥ 65; individuals at high risk of serious disease)
<a href="#">Moderna</a> (2 doses)	December 18, 2020 (≥18 years of age)			October 20, 2021 (immunocompromised or age ≥ 65; individuals at high risk of serious disease)
<a href="#">Janssen (J&amp;J)</a> (Single dose)	February 27, 2021 (≥18 years of age)			October 20, 2021 (second dose) (≥ 18 years of age)

\*After completion of primary vaccination (2 doses for Pfizer-BioNTech or Moderna; single dose of Janssen), additional dose can be any COVID-19 vaccine with FDA EUA or approval.

## Safety of the COVID-19 vaccines

- Data on safety of the Pfizer-BioNTech and Moderna vaccines is very good though the fatigue, fever, headache, and achiness that some people will experience might be sufficient to miss a day of work.
- Safety data on the Janssen vaccine is also very good; the proportion of people experiencing fatigue, fever, headache, and achiness is less than those receiving either the Pfizer-BioNTech or Moderna vaccines. A safety concern regarding a rare clotting disorder, not seen by either the Pfizer-BioNTech or Moderna vaccine had been reported. After consideration of both the vaccine and COVID-19 infection, the benefits of this vaccine were seen to outweigh the risks.
- The safety profiles for all three vaccines are similar across age groups, genders, ethnic and racial groups, as well as those with or without medical co-morbidities.
- People who have previously had an anaphylactic reaction to any vaccine or any component of the Pfizer-BioNTech or Moderna vaccines should not receive these vaccinations. The [standing order for the vaccine](#)

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indicates that those who have experienced a severe allergic reaction to any foods or other medications should be under medical observation for 30 minutes after vaccination.

The ADA will continue to monitor developments related to COVID-19 vaccine authorizations and administration on behalf of the profession and public. Please visit [ADA.org/virus](https://ada.org/virus) for information for dental professionals and [MouthHealthy.org](https://MouthHealthy.org) for information for patients.

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