



GET THE FACTS! PFIZER-BIONTECH COVID-19 VACCINE

HAS THE VACCINE BEEN AUTHORIZED BY THE FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION (FDA)?

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) authorized the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine for use under an Emergency Use Authorization (EUA) on December 11, 2020, which may help prevent COVID-19 in individuals 16 years of age and older. On May 10, 2021, the FDA authorized the use of this vaccine in adolescents between the ages of 12-15. The Pfizer COVID-19 Vaccine has met the FDA's rigorous and science-based standards for quality, safety and effectiveness.

HOW EFFECTIVE IS THE VACCINE? WILL IT GIVE ME COVID-19?

In clinical trials, the Pfizer COVID-19 Vaccine was 95% effective at preventing COVID-19. The Pfizer vaccine, does not contain the SARS-CoV-2 virus and thus cannot give individuals COVID-19. In fact, the vaccine showed signs of reducing infections that don't lead to symptoms.

IS THE VACCINE SAFE?

None of the factors that contributed to the accelerated development of the Pfizer COVID-19 Vaccine, imply that safety, scientific or ethical integrity were compromised or that short-cuts have been made.

HOW DOES THE VACCINE WORK?

The Pfizer COVID-19 Vaccine is a 2-dose series, given 21 days apart, and administered directly into muscle. It can take up to 1 to 2 weeks after the second dose to be considered fully vaccinated.

Using gene-based technology, it instructs human cells to make a protein resembling the spike protein found on the surface of the COVID-19 virus. This triggers an immune response that induces antibodies to block entry of the SARS-CoV-2 virus in human cells and thereby prevents an infection.

WHAT SIDE EFFECTS SHOULD I EXPECT AFTER GETTING THE VACCINE?

Individuals who receive the Pfizer COVID-19 Vaccine may experience fever, muscle aches and pain for 1-2 days following the inoculation; the most common side effects reported included pain and swelling around the injection site, fatigue, chills, joint pain and fever. *Of note, more people experienced these side effects after the second dose than after the first dose.*

WHAT IF I HAVE AN ALLERGIC REACTION?

The vaccine should NOT be administered to individuals with a known history of severe allergic reactions to this vaccines or any of its ingredients. If a severe reaction occurs, it will

usually happen within a few minutes to one hour after getting a dose of the vaccine. Reactions include difficulty breathing, swelling of the face and throat, fast heartbeat, body rash, dizziness and weakness. If you experience any signs of a severe allergic reaction, call 9-1-1 (or if off post, call 1-1-9) and go to the nearest emergency room or hospital. For other symptoms that may concern you or if you have any questions, please contact your healthcare provider.

WHEN CAN I GET THE VACCINE?

If you are suffering from an acute illness, you should defer taking any vaccinations until you recover. The COVID-19 vaccine should be administered alone and with a minimum interval of 14 days before or after receiving any other vaccine. In regards to distribution, USFK is following DoD guidance; please refer to the USFK COVID page for more information as it becomes available.

IS ONE COVID-19 VACCINE BETTER THAN ANY OF THE OTHERS?

No. Vaccine recipients are reminded that the only way to accurately compare the effectiveness of vaccines is by direct comparison in head-to-head clinical trials, which did not occur for the three FDA-authorized vaccines. All of the COVID-19 vaccines that the FDA has authorized for emergency use are at least 50% more effective than a placebo in preventing COVID-19, consistent with FDA recommendations on efficacy found to have a significant impact on disease.

BY GETTING THE VACCINE, DO I STILL HAVE TO FOLLOW HPCON MEASURES?

Although the vaccine may prevent you from getting COVID-19, you must still adhere to USFK core tenets and HPCON measures, as well as ROK government and local directives.

I HAVE A CONCERN NOT LISTED HERE. WHO CAN I CONTACT?

Discuss your concerns with your primary healthcare provider or see <https://go.usa.gov/xHecU> for additional information to make an informed and educated decision.

WHILE VOLUNTARY AND ULTIMATELY YOUR CHOICE TO RECEIVE IT, USFK WANTS YOU TO MAKE AN INFORMED AND EDUCATED DECISION ABOUT THE PFIZER-BIONTECH VACCINE. GETTING A COVID-19 VACCINE WILL HELP PROTECT THE FORCE AND COMMUNITY TO STRENGTHEN OUR "FIGHT TONIGHT" READINESS POSTURE.