

**FREDERICK LIVING  
COVID-19 VACCINE:  
ANSWERS TO YOUR  
QUESTIONS**

## COMMON QUESTIONS WE WILL ADDRESS:

- What is the COVID-19 vaccine composed of?
- Am I being injected with COVID-19?
- How do we know the vaccine is safe and effective?
- How was the vaccine developed so quickly?
- Were “corners cut” in developing the vaccine?
- What should I expect when I get the COVID-19 Vaccine?
- Is the vaccine recommended for women that are pregnant, children, and those with pre-existing conditions?
- Where should I look to get accurate information?



WHAT IS THE COVID-19  
VACCINE COMPOSED OF?

AM I BEING INJECTED WITH  
COVID-19?

## mRNA COVID-19 Vaccines

- COVID-19 Vaccines are composed of mRNA.
- mRNA technology is new in vaccine production but is already being used in cancer treatment. It has been studied for more than ten years.
- COVID-19 mRNA vaccines give instructions for our cells to make a **harmless piece** that looks like the “spike protein.” The spike protein is found on the surface of the COVID-19 virus.
- Our bodies recognize that this protein should not be there, so they build antibodies that will remember how to fight the virus that causes COVID-19 if we are infected in the future.

Can mRNA vaccine give me COVID-19? **NO**

Can mRNA vaccine change my DNA? **NO**

## **IS THE COVID-19-VACCINE SAFE AND EFFECTIVE?**

- The FDA is using the same strict standards that it has for decades
- No steps are “skipped”
- Most side effects occur within 6 weeks of vaccination. To be more cautious, the FDA (Food and Drug Administration) requires 8 weeks of safety monitoring of the COVID-19 vaccines
- Monitoring for safety will continue as the vaccine is distributed to the public

## HOW WAS THE VACCINE DEVELOPED SO QUICKLY?

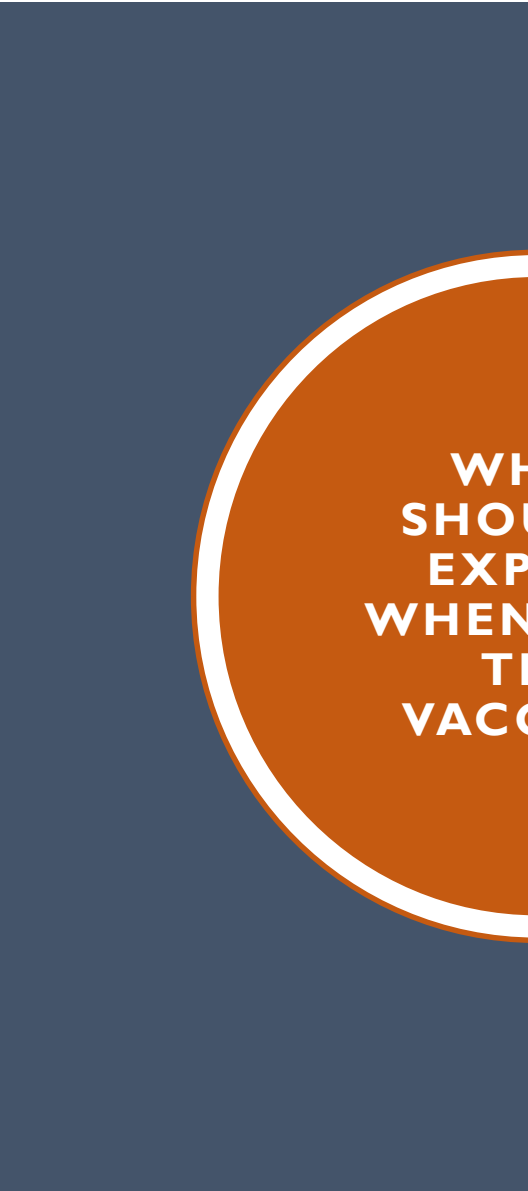
Major reasons we were able to get these vaccines developed more quickly than usual include :

- Global effort with the world's leading scientists focused on a single task
- Nearly unlimited resources (money, knowledge, manpower, technology)
- A large pool of diverse adult volunteer trial participants

WERE  
“CORNERS  
CUT” IN  
DEVELOPING  
THE VACCINE?

	Typical Vaccine Trial	COVID-19 vaccine Trial
Number of people enrolled	Minimum of <b>3,000</b>	<b>30,000-50,000</b>
FDA Required efficacy	<b>50%</b>	<b>94-95% (Pfizer and Moderna)</b>


- **Notes:** Courtesy of Dr. Anuj Mehta, Data is accurate as of 11/18/2020. More information is constantly becoming available. Sub-group comparisons (e.g. comparisons about efficacy between races or age groups) may be less accurate due to smaller numbers. Sub-group numbers for the Pfizer vaccine are given for US participants with international percentages in parentheses.
- <https://www.pfizer.com/news/press-release/press-release-detail/pfizer-and-biontech-conclude-phase-3-study-covid-19-vaccine>
- <https://www.pfizer.com/science/coronavirus/vaccine>
- <https://investors.modernatx.com/news-releases/news-release-details/modernas-covid-19-vaccine-candidate-meets-its-primary-efficacy>
- [https://www.modernatx.com/sites/default/files/content\\_documents/2020-COVE-Study-Enrollment-Completion-10.22.20.pdf](https://www.modernatx.com/sites/default/files/content_documents/2020-COVE-Study-Enrollment-Completion-10.22.20.pdf)



**WHAT  
SHOULD I  
EXPECT  
WHEN I GET  
THE  
VACCINE?**

## **THE VACCINE CANNOT GIVE YOU COVID-19!**

- You can expect to have short-term discomfort: fatigue, headache, muscle pain, chills, fever and pain at injection site after vaccination
- These reactions will last for 24-48 hours and are typically more pronounced after the second dose
- Side effects mean your body is doing its job and making antibodies (IT IS A GOOD THING)
- These side effects are normal, common and expected



WHAT  
SHOULD I  
EXPECT  
WHEN I GET  
THE  
VACCINE?

- **There will be two vaccines administered 3-4 weeks apart.**
- **YOU MUST GET THE SECOND DOSE** because the vaccine will not protect you if only get one dose



## IS THE VACCINE RECOMMENDED FOR PREGNANT WOMEN, CHILDREN, AND THOSE WITH PRE-EXISTING CONDITIONS?

- Vaccine is indicated for ages of 16 years and older only.
- According to The American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologist, the COVID-19 vaccine should not be withheld from pregnant individuals that meet criteria.
  - COVID-19 vaccine has not been tested on pregnant women and there are no safety data specific to use in pregnancy.
- Covid-19 Vaccine **should not** be administered to individuals with known history of severe allergic reaction to any component of the vaccine
- Immunocompromised persons, including those receiving immunosuppressant therapy, may have a diminished response to the COVID-19 vaccine
- **Talk with your physician to help with making an informed decision as to whether or not you should received the vaccine**

# WHERE SHOULD I LOOK TO GET ACCURATE INFORMATION?

It is important to get information from reliable sources (CDC, AMDA, medical directors, providers) **Social media is full of misinformation and opinions based on that misinformation**

**Here are some link to information:**

- CDC: <https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/hcp/covid-conversations/answering-questions.html>
- CDC: About COVID-19 vaccines: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/about-vaccines.html>
- CDC: Provider Resources for COVID-19 Vaccine Conversations with Patients and Answering Patients' Questions: <https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/hcp/covid-conversations/>