

PFIZER-BIONTECH COVID-19 VACCINE INFORMATION SHEET

What is the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine?

This is a vaccine used to prevent COVID-19 disease caused by the SARS-CoV-2 virus that is given to individuals 16 years of age and older.

How does Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine work?

The vaccine causes the body to produce protection (such as antibodies) that prevent the COVID-19 virus from entering cells to make an individual sick. The vaccine uses a new method (messenger RNA-mRNA, the genetic code for a piece of the virus) to help the body make protection against the virus.

The vaccine is given by injection with a needle in the upper arm and requires two doses given 21 days apart.

You **CANNOT** get COVID-19 from the vaccine.

As with any vaccine, Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine may not fully protect all those who receive it. Even after you have had both doses of the vaccine, it is important that you continue to follow the recommendations of all health officials to prevent the spread of COVID-19.

What are the ingredients in Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine?

- mRNA (medicinal ingredient)
- ALC-0315 ((4-hydroxybutyl) azanediyl) bis (hexane-6,1-diyl) bis (2-hexyldecanoate)
- ALC-0159 2-[(polyethylene glycol)-2000]-N, N-ditetradecylacetamide
- 1,2-Distearoyl-sn-glycero-3-phosphocholine
- Cholesterol
- Dibasic sodium phosphate dihydrate
- Monobasic potassium phosphate
- Potassium chloride
- Sodium chloride
- Sucrose
- Water for injection

You should not receive Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine if:

- You are allergic to any of the ingredients in the vaccine
- Have any symptoms that could be due to COVID-19

Talk to your health care provider about your symptoms and getting a COVID-19 test. Your health care professional will advise you when you are able to receive the vaccine.

To help avoid side effects and ensure proper use, talk to your health care provider before you receive Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine about any health conditions, including:

- Problems following previous administration of Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine, such as an allergic reaction or breathing problems
- A weakened immune system due to a medical condition (or if you are on a medicine that affects your immune system)
- If you have a bleeding problem, bruise easily or use a blood thinning medication
- If you are pregnant, think you may be pregnant or plan to become pregnant
- If you are breastfeeding

Other warnings you should know about:

It may take until seven (7) days after the second dose of Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine to develop protection against COVID-19. As with any vaccine, Pfizer BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine may not fully protect all those who receive it.

What are possible side effects from the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine?

- Pain at injection site
- Tiredness
- Headache
- Muscle pain
- Chills
- Joint pain
- Fever
- Enlarged lymph nodes (may affect up to one in 100 people)

Should you develop any serious symptoms or symptoms that could be an allergic reaction, seek medical attention immediately. Symptoms of an allergic reaction may include:

- Hives (bumps on the skin that are often very itchy)
- Swelling of the face, tongue or throat
- Difficulty breathing

For more information:

- Talk to your health care provider
- Pfizer-BioNTech Product Monograph: <https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/services/drugs-health-products/drug-products/drug-product-database.html>
- Government of Canada COVID-19 Vaccines: <https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/services/drugs-health-products/covid19-industry/drugs-vaccines-treatments/vaccines/pfizer-biontech.html>
- Public Health Sudbury & Districts: www.phsd.ca