



HOW DO WE KNOW THE COVID-19 VACCINE IS SAFE?

In the United States, getting a vaccine fully approved for human use often takes years, but during emergencies like the COVID-19 pandemic, with so many lives at stake, the US relied on a special mechanism, known as an Emergency Use Authorization (EUA), to speed up access to vaccines and other needed medical measures.

Under an EUA, the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) may allow the use of unapproved medical products like vaccines to be used to diagnose, treat, or prevent serious or life-threatening diseases or conditions when certain conditions are met.

However, even under an EUA, vaccines still undergo a rigorous review of laboratory, clinical, and manufacturing data to ensure the safety, effectiveness, and quality of these products.

While all three vaccines in the US were initially approved for use in adults relying on an EUA, the Pfizer vaccine has since been fully approved by the FDA for all individuals age 16 and older. In addition, the Pfizer vaccine has been granted an additional EUA to allow children and adolescents between the ages of 5-15 to be vaccinated.

THE VACCINES & THEIR EFFECTIVENESS

3 VACCINES APPROVED FOR EMERGENCY USE :

MODERNA	PFIZER	JOHNSON & JOHNSON
2 SHOTS 95% EFFECTIVE	2 SHOTS 95% EFFECTIVE	1 SHOT 77% EFFECTIVE

A person is considered to be fully vaccinated:

- 2 weeks after receiving the second dose in a 2-dose series of the Pfizer or Moderna vaccine, or
- 2 weeks after a single dose of the Johnson & Johnson vaccine.
- Boosters are now recommended for people most at risk of getting COVID-19.

THE COVID-19 VACCINE SAVES LIVES

Vaccines Help Prevent COVID-19

- Research from real-world settings shows that vaccines protect against severe COVID-19 cases that can result in hospitalization and deaths, while also helping stop the virus from spreading.
- Studies in the US, UK, Canada, and Israel have found that one dose of the Moderna or Pfizer vaccines considerably reduces people from getting or spreading COVID-19.
- Other research suggests that the second Moderna or Pfizer shot is critical to fully protecting people.

Vaccinated vs. Unvaccinated

People who have been vaccinated are less likely to get COVID-19:

- 99.5% of deaths from COVID-19 are among people who are unvaccinated.
- If a vaccinated person does get COVID-19, they are 11 times less likely to die than unvaccinated individuals.
- Each vaccinated person protects not only themselves but also people around them—as the number of people vaccinated increases, the chances for the virus to find people who are unvaccinated and can spread the virus to others decreases.

The Delta Variant

- The virus has changed over time into new variants that put young people more at risk.
- Children and adults under 50 are 2.5 times more likely to become infected by the current Delta variant than with other variants.
- Vaccinated people are considerably more protected against the Delta variant than unvaccinated people.

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