

COVID-19 mRNA Vaccine Information

AGES 12+

Please read this information sheet carefully and ensure all your questions have been answered by a health-care provider before receiving the vaccine.

How do mRNA vaccines work?

- mRNA vaccines teach your body to protect itself against COVID-19 without getting sick from the virus.
- The vaccine causes our body to produce antibodies to help keep us from becoming sick if we are exposed to the COVID-19 virus.

How are the vaccines given?

You need 2 (sometimes 3) doses of mRNA vaccines to get full protection. This is called your primary series. You will receive the vaccines in your upper arm (deltoid muscle).

- both Pfizer (Comirnaty) and Moderna (Spikevax) first and second doses are recommended to be given 8 weeks apart. Emerging evidence shows that intervals of 8 weeks between the first and second doses of COVID-19 vaccine result in more robust and durable immune response and higher vaccine effectiveness.
- Booster doses: are given 6 months after the completion of the primary series.

What are the benefits of the vaccine?

- The vaccines are the best way to protect against COVID-19 infection.
- In clinical trials the vaccine prevented people from becoming sick with COVID-19 and from severe illness (hospitalization and death) with:
 - 95% efficacy for people aged 18 and older, and
 - 100% efficacy for people aged 12-17.

Who can get the COVID-19 vaccine?

In Yukon, there are two different types of mRNA vaccines available:

- Moderna (Spikevax) is available to adults 18 years of age and older.
- Pfizer (Comirnaty) vaccine is available to children 12-17 years of age.

Clients who are pregnant, breastfeeding, immunocompromised, or have an autoimmune condition, can get the vaccine. If you have questions, have a discussion with your health care provider about risks and benefits to help you make a decision.

Who should NOT get the vaccine?

- People under 12 years of age.
- Anyone with symptoms that could be due to COVID-19 should wait to be vaccinated so that they do not spread infection to others at the vaccine clinic. Talk with a health-care provider, call 811, or arrange to get tested for COVID-19.
- Anyone with a known allergy to polyethylene glycol (PEG)* or who has had an allergic reaction from an unknown cause.
- People who had a serious or allergic reaction to a previous dose of COVID-19 vaccine should talk to their health-care provider before getting their 2nd dose.

* **Polyethylene glycol (PEG)** can rarely cause allergic reactions. It is found in products such as medications, bowel preparation products for colonoscopy, laxatives, cough syrups, cosmetics, skin creams, medical products used on the skin and during operations, toothpaste, contact lenses and contact lens solution. PEG also can be found in foods or drinks, but is not known to cause allergic reactions from foods or drinks.

Note: Rare cases of inflammation of the heart have been reported after getting the Pfizer or Moderna vaccine. This has occurred more commonly after the second dose at a rate of about 1 per 100,000 second doses, and has been observed mostly in males under 30 years of age.