

Emergency Use Instructions (EUI) Fact Sheet for Recipients and Caregivers: Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine for Primary and Booster Doses in Certain Persons Who Received Primary Vaccination with Vaccines Not Approved/Authorized in the United States

You may be eligible for the COVID-19 vaccine by Pfizer-BioNTech as a primary dose and/or a booster dose if you are 12 years and older and received primary vaccination with **certain** COVID-19 vaccines **not authorized or approved** by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA). For example, if you were vaccinated outside the United States or from clinical trial participation (and received vaccines such as the AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccine, the Novavax COVID-19 vaccine, or the Sinopharm COVID-19 vaccine), you may be eligible to receive a primary dose and/or a booster dose.

This Fact Sheet describes Emergency Use Instructions that have been issued by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to provide information about the primary and booster doses of the COVID-19 vaccine by Pfizer-BioNTech in certain individuals who received primary vaccination with certain non-FDA authorized or approved COVID-19 vaccines.

What are Emergency Use Instructions (EUI)?

EUI are issued by CDC to provide information about emergency use of FDA-approved medical products that may not be included in or differ in some way from the information provided in the FDA-approved labeling (package insert). EUI consist of fact sheets for healthcare providers and recipients.

Why is CDC issuing EUI for the COVID-19 vaccine by Pfizer-BioNTech?

The COVID-19 vaccine by Pfizer-BioNTech is an FDA-approved COVID-19 vaccine (brand name Comirnaty, mRNA) to prevent COVID-19 in persons 16 years and older. CDC is issuing EUI to provide information about use of this vaccine for persons 12 years and older as an additional primary dose in those with certain immunocompromising conditions, a primary dose in those with incomplete primary dose series, and/or a booster dose after receiving certain **non-FDA authorized or approved COVID-19 vaccines** (for example, certain vaccines available outside of the United States or vaccines used in clinical trials).

What is COVID-19?

COVID-19 disease is caused by a coronavirus called SARS-CoV-2. You can get COVID-19 through contact with another person who has the virus. It is predominantly a respiratory illness that can affect other organs. People with COVID-19 have reported a wide range of symptoms, ranging from no symptoms to severe illness leading to death. Symptoms may appear 2 to 14 days after exposure to the virus. Symptoms may include: fever or chills, cough, shortness of breath, fatigue, muscle or body aches, headache, new loss of taste or smell, sore throat, congestion or runny nose, nausea or vomiting, and diarrhea.

Who can receive a primary dose and/or a booster dose of the COVID-19 vaccine by Pfizer-BioNTech under the EUI?

- People 12 years and older who are **moderately or severely immunocompromised** and who received their primary vaccination with certain **non-FDA authorized or approved COVID-19 vaccines** at least 28 days ago can receive an **additional primary dose** of the COVID-19 vaccine by Pfizer-BioNTech.
- People 12 years and older who received an incomplete primary dose series (only the first dose of a 2-dose primary series) with certain **non-FDA authorized or approved COVID-19 vaccines** at least 28 days ago can receive a primary dose of the COVID-19 vaccine by Pfizer-BioNTech, after which they are considered fully vaccinated.
- People 12 years and older who received their primary vaccination with certain **non-FDA authorized or approved COVID-19 vaccines** at least 5 months ago can receive a **booster dose** of the COVID-19 vaccine by Pfizer-BioNTech.



Talk to your healthcare provider about if and when you should receive a primary dose or a booster dose. See [CDC's Interim Clinical Considerations](#) for additional information on moderately and severely immunocompromised persons recommended for an additional primary dose and populations eligible for a booster dose.

Who should NOT get the COVID-19 vaccine by Pfizer-BioNTech?

You should not get the vaccine if you:

- had a severe allergic reaction after a previous dose of the COVID-19 vaccine by Pfizer-BioNTech
- had a severe allergic reaction to any ingredient of the COVID-19 vaccine by Pfizer-BioNTech

What should I mention to the vaccination provider before getting the COVID-19 vaccine by Pfizer-BioNTech?

Tell your vaccination provider the name, number of doses, and date(s) of COVID-19 vaccine(s) you received previously. Also, mention all of your medical conditions, including if you:

- have any allergies
- have had myocarditis (inflammation of the heart muscle) or pericarditis (inflammation of the lining outside the heart)
- have a fever
- have a bleeding disorder or are on a blood thinner
- are immunocompromised or are on a medicine that affects your immune system
- have ever fainted in association with an injection

How is the COVID-19 vaccine by Pfizer-BioNTech given?

The primary or a booster dose of the COVID-19 vaccine by Pfizer-BioNTech is given as a single injection into the muscle.

Has the COVID-19 vaccine by Pfizer-BioNTech been used before?

Yes. Millions of people have received this vaccine in the United States since it became available starting in mid-December 2020. Also, in clinical trials, approximately 23,000 people 12 years and older have received at least 1 dose of the vaccine. There have been some studies in people who received the COVID-19 vaccine by Pfizer-BioNTech after completing a primary vaccination with a non-FDA authorized or approved COVID-19 vaccine.

What are the risks of the COVID-19 vaccine by Pfizer-BioNTech?

Limited data are available on use of the COVID-19 vaccine by Pfizer-BioNTech as an additional primary dose or a booster dose in people who completed their primary vaccination with a non-FDA authorized or approved COVID-19 vaccine. Side effects of the COVID-19 vaccine by Pfizer-BioNTech include injection site pain, fatigue, headache, muscle pain, chills, joint pain, fever, injection site swelling, injection site redness, nausea, malaise, swollen lymph nodes (lymphadenopathy), decreased appetite, rash, arm pain, diarrhea, and vomiting. Common side effects reported were mostly mild, but some people had side effects that affected their ability to do daily activities. Cases of myocarditis and pericarditis have rarely been reported, especially in adolescents and young adult males within several days after COVID-19 vaccination.

Additional information on the common and serious side effects of the COVID-19 vaccine by Pfizer-BioNTech can be found in the [package insert for Comirnaty](#) and in the [EUA Fact Sheet for Recipients and Caregivers](#).

What are the benefits of the COVID-19 vaccine by Pfizer-BioNTech?

The COVID-19 vaccine by Pfizer-BioNTech has been shown in clinical studies to be effective in preventing COVID-19. A primary dose or a booster dose of the COVID-19 vaccine by Pfizer-BioNTech may help to increase immune response in people who completed their primary vaccination with a non-FDA authorized



or approved COVID-19 vaccine, which could improve protection against COVID-19. The COVID-19 vaccine by Pfizer-BioNTech may not protect everyone.

What are the Risks and Benefits of the COVID-19 vaccine by Pfizer-BioNTech?

The FDA approved the COVID-19 vaccine by Pfizer-BioNTech to prevent COVID-19 based on safety and efficacy data available from clinical trials. Additionally, the [FDA issued an Emergency Use Authorization](#) of the COVID-19 vaccine by Pfizer-BioNTech as an additional primary or a booster dose, determining, among other things, that the known and potential benefits of vaccination outweigh the known and potential risks of the vaccine. Based on available information, the use of the COVID-19 vaccine by Pfizer-BioNTech as described in this Fact Sheet could help improve or restore protection that may not have been sufficient or may have decreased over time after the primary vaccination.

What alternative choices are available for primary and/or booster doses other than the COVID-19 vaccine by Pfizer-BioNTech?

The COVID-19 vaccine you initially received for primary vaccination is not authorized, approved, or available in the United States. Currently, the COVID-19 vaccine by Pfizer-BioNTech is the only FDA-approved COVID-19 vaccine for which EUI provide information about a primary dose or a booster dose following the COVID-19 vaccine that you received.

It is your choice to receive or not receive the COVID-19 vaccine by Pfizer-BioNTech as a primary dose or a booster dose. Should you decide not to receive it, it will not change your standard medical care.

Will I get a vaccination card?

When you are administered a primary dose or a booster dose of the COVID-19 vaccine by Pfizer-BioNTech, you will get a vaccination card to document when you received the shot. You should keep your vaccination card.

What is the Countermeasures Injury Compensation Program?

The Countermeasures Injury Compensation Program (CICP) is a federal program that may help pay for costs of medical care and other specific expenses of certain people who have been seriously injured by certain medicines or vaccines, including this vaccine. Generally, a claim must be submitted to the CICP within one (1) year from the date of receiving the vaccine. To learn more about this program, visit www.hrsa.gov/cicp/ or call 1-855-266-2427.

How can I learn more?

- Ask the vaccination provider.
- Visit CDC at <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>.
- Visit FDA at <https://www.fda.gov/emergency-preparedness-and-response/mcm-legal-regulatory-and-policy-framework/emergency-use-authorization>.
- Contact your local or state public health department.

