The Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine is an mRNA vaccine given intramuscularly (IM) in the upper arm. This vaccine requires 2 shots three weeks (21 days) apart. Does NOT contain Eggs, Latex, or Preservatives.

**Helpful tips**

If you have pain or discomfort after the vaccine, talk to your doctor about taking an over-the-counter medicine, such as ibuprofen or acetaminophen. It is not recommended to take these medications before your immunization.

**To reduce pain and discomfort where you got the shot:**
- Apply a clean, cool, wet washcloth over the area
- Use or exercise your arm

**To reduce discomfort from fever:**
- Drink plenty of fluids
- Dress lightly

**When to call the doctor**

In most cases, discomfort from fever or pain is normal. Contact your doctor or healthcare provider:
- If the redness or tenderness where you got the shot increases after 24 hours
- If your side effects are worrying you or do not seem to be going away after a few days

**Remember**

Side effects may feel like flu and even affect your ability to do daily activities, but they should go away in a few days. Get the second shot even if you have side effects after the first one, unless a vaccination provider or your doctor tells you not to get a second shot. It takes time for your body to build protection after any vaccination. **COVID-19 vaccines that require 2 shots may not protect you until two weeks after your second shot.** It’s important for everyone to continue using all the tools available to help stop this pandemic as we learn more about how COVID-19 vaccines work in real-world conditions. Cover your mouth and nose with a mask when around others, stay at least 6 feet away from others, avoid crowds, and wash your hands often.

**ASK YOUR HEALTHCARE PROVIDER ABOUT GETTING STARTED WITH V-SAFE**

Use your smartphone to tell CDC about any side effects after getting the COVID-19 vaccine. You’ll also get reminders if you need a second dose. Learn more about v-safe. [www.cdc.gov/vsafe](http://www.cdc.gov/vsafe)