AEO INC.

COVID-19 Vaccine FAQs

Note: the answers to these FAQS are based on publicly available information provided by federal, state, and local health agencies as of August 2, 2021. The information below is not intended to be medical advice and AEO encourages all associates to consult with their medical providers about any specific questions about their situation. Furthermore, there are additional questions related to cost and availability of the vaccine that we simply don't have answers to yet. We are monitoring the situation closely and will update these FAQs as additional information becomes available to AEO.

Will AEO require me to get the COVID-19 vaccine?

No. AEO encourages all associates to get the vaccine if they are able, but will not require associates to get the vaccine as a condition of employment.

I'm fully vaccinated. What now?

If you are fully vaccinated, you should follow the CDC guidelines for fully-vaccinated individuals:

- Effective August 4, 2021, even if you are vaccinated, you MUST wear a mask in our stores, offices and distribution centers.
- Wear a mask indoors is advised if you are in an area of substantial or high transmission
- Wear a mask if you have a weakened immune system or if, because of your age or an underlying medical condition, you are at increased risk for severe disease, or if someone in your household has a weakened immune system, is at increased risk for severe disease, or is unvaccinated.

I'm fully vaccinated, but had close contact with a COVID-19+ individual. Do I need to quarantine?

In accordance with CDC guidance, you do not need to quarantine if you are fully vaccinated. You should get tested 3-5 days after exposure to a known or suspected COVID-19 case and wear a mask in public indoor settings for 14 days or until you receive a negative test result. Even if you receive a negative result, you'll continue to wear a mask while at AEO!

How many vaccine options are there?

As of August 2021, there are three vaccines that are authorized and recommended for use in the United States: the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine ("Pfizer vaccine"), the Moderna COVID-19 vaccine ("Moderna vaccine"), and the Janssen-Johnson & Johnson Vaccine ("J&J Vaccine").

However, as of March 1, 2021, other vaccines from AstraZeneca and Novavax were in Phase 3 clinical trials in the United States.

On August 23, 2021, the FDA granted full approval for the Pfizer vaccine, also known as Comiranty, for the prevention of COVID-19 disease in individuals 16 years of age and older. It continues to be available under Emergency Use Authorization for individuals who are 12-15 years old.

Canada has authorized four COVID-19 vaccines: Pfizer; Moderna; J&J and AstraZeneca.

What's going on with the J&J vaccine?

On April 25, 2021, the CDC and FDA recommended that use of the J&J vaccine resume, after a pause was announced on April 13, 2021. The CDC determined that the J&J's vaccines known and potential benefits outweigh its known and potential risk.

The pause allowed the agencies review data and make an assessment related to a rare adverse event following vaccinations— blood clots with low platelets. The pause allowed CDC to communicate with healthcare providers and re-emphasize the importance of reporting severe events in people who have received this vaccine, as well as how to report such events. The pause also gave experts time to carefully review all available data and conduct a risk-benefit analysis around the use of this vaccine. In reviewing the data, the CDC determined that out of 8 millions+ doses of the J&J vaccine, there were 15 reports of women who got the J&J vaccine who later developed a blood clot condition called thrombosis with thrombocytopenia syndrome. These 15 women were between the ages of 18 and 59 years old.

What do I need to know if I've received or am planning to receive the J&J vaccine?

Women younger than 50 years old should be aware of the rare but increased risk of blood clots with low platelets after receiving the J&J vaccine, and that this risk has not been seen with the Moderna or Pfizer vaccines.

If you are planning to or have already you've received the J&J vaccine, medical experts advise that it is very unlikely that you have an adverse event. However, you should contact your health care provider if you develop severe headache, abdominal pain, leg pain, or shortness of breath.

If you would like to report any side effects of the COVID-19 vaccine, please check out the CDC's V-safe program here.

How can I make a COVID-19 vaccine appointment?

United States

Individuals 12 years and older in the United States are eligible for a COVID-19 vaccine. To schedule an appointment, click here!

Canada

Individuals 12 years and older are eligible for a COVID-19 vaccine in Canada. To schedule a vaccine appointment, click here!

Do the COVID-19 vaccines contain the live COVID-19 virus?

No. There are two types of COVID-19 vaccines currently authorized in the United States and Canada: mRNA and viral vector vaccines.

The Pfizer and Moderna COVID-19 vaccines are messenger RNA or "mRNA" vaccine. mRNA vaccines do not contain the live virus. Instead, mRNA vaccines teach our cells how to make a protein— in this case just a piece of a protein—that triggers an immune response inside our bodies. That immune response, which produces antibodies, is what protects us from getting infected if the real virus enters our bodies. You can read more from the CDC about how the COVID-19 mRNA vaccines work here.

The J&J vaccine is a viral vector vaccine. Viral vector vaccines use a modified version of a different virus (the vector) to deliver important instructions to our cells. The vector (not the virus that causes COVID-19, but a different, harmless virus) will enter a cell in our body and then use the cell's machinery to produce a harmless piece of the virus that causes COVID-19. This piece is known as a spike protein and it is only found on the surface of the virus that causes COVID-19. The J&J vaccine uses a harmless adenovirus as its viral vector. You can read more from the CDC about how the COVID-19 viral vector vaccines work here.

The AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccine authorized in Canada is also a viral vector vaccine.

I'm nervous about taking the COVID-19 vaccine because it seems like the vaccines were developed so quickly. What process was used to ensure the vaccines' safety?

As of August 23, 2021, the FDA approved the Pfizer vaccine for the prevention of COVID-19 disease in individuals 16 years or older. This vaccine is now also known as "Comiranty." Note , the Pfizer vaccine continues to be available under Emergency Use Authorization for individuals who are 12-15 years old.

The Food and Drug Administration ("FDA")—the federal agency tasked with ensuring the safety and efficacy of drugs—issued an Emergency Use Authorization ("EUA") for the Pfizer and Moderna COVID-19 vaccines in December 2020, and the Johnson & Johnson COVID-19 vaccine in February 2021. This means that the COVID-19 vaccines have met a rigorous set of criteria and have been proven to be effective based on data by the vaccine manufacturers and large clinical trials. The federal government has determined that the vaccine is safe and recommends their use to prevent the spread of COVID-19. If you'd like more information about EUA, watch the Food and Drug Administration's explanatory video and/or review the FDA's infographic about the path of a COVID-19 vaccine from research to EUA. THE CDC has also published guidance about the safety of the COVID-19 vaccines.

Is there a difference between the Pfizer, Moderna, or J&J vaccines?

The Pfizer, Moderna, and J&J vaccines are authorized and recommended by the FDA to protect against COVID-19. The Pfizer and Moderna vaccines are both mRNA vaccines, but the Pfizer and Moderna vaccines have different ingredients, need to be stored at different temperatures, and the second dose is given at different time intervals. The Pfizer vaccine is given in 2 shots, at least 21 days apart. The Moderna vaccine is given in 2 shots, at least 28 days apart.

The J&J vaccine is a viral vector vaccine that contains a piece of the harmless adenovirus type 26 virus. It is given in 1 shot.

Additionally, the Pfizer vaccine is authorized for individuals 12 years of age and older, but the Moderna and J&J vaccines are only authorized for individuals who are at least 18 years old.

They have very similar efficacy, side effects, and safety profile.

For more information, please visit the FDA's fact sheet for each vaccine: Pfizer, Moderna, or J&J.

Why do I need two shots for the Pfizer or Moderna vaccines?

Currently, the Pfizer and Moderna vaccines require 2 shots to give you the most protection against COVID-19. The Pfizer vaccine is given in 2 shots, at least 21 days apart. The Moderna vaccine is given in 2 shots, at least 28 days apart.

Can I get multiple types of vaccines?

No, the vaccines are NOT interchangeable. If your first dose is the Pfizer vaccine, your second dose must also be the Pfizer vaccine. Similarly, if your first dose is the Moderna vaccine, your second dose must also be the Moderna vaccine. If you get the J&J vaccine, you should not get a Pfizer or Moderna vaccine unless you are directed to do so by a medical provider or public health agency.

I have allergies that prevent me from taking certain vaccines. What's in the COVID-19 vaccines?

The COVID-19 vaccines do not contain eggs, preservatives, or latex. For a full list of ingredients, please visit the FDA's fact sheet for each vaccine: Pfizer; Moderna; or J&J. The CDC has also published guidance about the COVID-19 vaccines and allergic reactions.

In general, unless you are allergic to a specific ingredient in the COVID-19 vaccines or had an allergic reaction to the first dose of the vaccine, you can likely be vaccinated safely. AEO encourages you to discuss your options with your health care providers.

Can I take a COVID-19 vaccine if I'm already pregnant or breastfeeding?

The FDA has explained that the vaccine has not been determined to be unsafe for pregnant or breastfeeding individuals based on available information. The COVID-19 vaccine trials did not deliberately include pregnant or breastfeeding individuals, however some vaccine trial participants inadvertently became pregnant and received the vaccine. The CDC has published vaccination considerations for individuals who are pregnant or breastfeeding.

Ovia Health has also published guidance for pregnant people, as well as guidance for parents. AEO encourages you to speak with your health care provider.

I have a medical condition. How will I know if I can take the vaccine?

The CDC has published general vaccination considerations for individuals with certain underlying medical conditions.

Depending on your underlying medical condition, your health care provider may explain that it may be even more important to get the vaccine as you could be at risk for a more severe case if you contract COVID-19.

We encourage you to speak with your health care provider about your specific circumstances before taking the vaccine.

I already had COVID-19. Should I still get the vaccine?

According to medical experts, yes. Because there's still a risk that you can get re-infected with COVID-19, you are still encouraged to get the vaccine even if you have already recovered from COVID-19.

Are there any side effects of the vaccine?

According to the FDA, the most commonly reported side effects for the Pfizer vaccine are: pain at the injection site, tiredness, headache, muscle pain, chills, joint pain, and fever.

The side effects most commonly reported for the Moderna vaccine are: pain at the injection site, tiredness, headache, muscle pain, chills, joint pain, swollen lymph nodes in the same arm as the injection, nausea and vomiting, and fever. During the drug trials, more people experienced these side effects after the second dose than after the first dose.

The most commonly reported side effects for the J&J vaccine are: pain at the injection site, headache, fatigue, muscle aches and nausea. Most of these side effects occurred within 1-2 days following vaccination and were mild to moderate in severity and lasted 1-2 days.

The CDC has published information about what to expect after getting a COVID-19 vaccine and tips for dealing with side effects here. Women younger than 50 years old should be aware of the rare but increased risk of blood clots with low platelets after receiving the J&J vaccine. More information about the J&J vaccine is available here.

The CDC has published information about what to expect after getting a COVID-19 vaccine and tips for dealing with side effects here.

Can I still get COVID-19 after I receive a vaccine?

It is possible. You have approximately 50% immunity about a week or two after receiving the first dose of the Pfizer or Moderna vaccines. The immunity increases to approximately 94% to 95% in the weeks after receiving the second dose.

With respect to the J&J vaccine, it is approximately 67% effective in preventing moderate to severe/critical COVID-19 disease occurring at least 14 days after vaccination and 66% effective in preventing moderate to severe/critical disease at least 28 days after vaccination.

Do I still need to wear a mask at work after I am fully vaccinated?

Effective August 4, 2021, even if you are vaccinated, you MUST wear a mask in our stores, offices and distribution centers. While it's disappointing to go backwards, there is too much uncertainty around the variants of the COVID-19 virus and its impact on both unvaccinated AND vaccinated individuals to take chances with our health right now.

All associates must continue to follow all other health and safety protocols, including completing the Working Well questionnaire via the app or paper form.

What does FDA approval of the Pfizer vaccine mean?

FDA approval means that after receiving additional data over an extended period of time, the FDA has confirmed that the vaccine remains safe and effective. The vaccine was previously being produced and distributed under an Emergency Use Authorization (EUA). During a public health emergency, such as with the Covid-19 pandemic, this type of authorization allowed for large amounts of the vaccine to be produced and distributed to the public during the testing phase. However, before granting the EUA the FDA determined that, based on the data available, the

vaccine was safe and effective. The Pfizer vaccine will continue to be authorized for emergency use for children ages 12 to 15 while Pfizer collects the necessary data required for full approval.

What about Moderna and J&J?

Moderna applied for FDA approval in June, one month after Pfizer. J&J has not yet submitted its application for FDA approval, but is expected to do so soon. The Moderna and Johnson & Johnson vaccines continue to be available under EUA.

Where can I get more information about the vaccines?

The FDA has published FAQs (Pfizer; Moderna; J&J) and fact sheets (Pfizer; Moderna; J&J) for each vaccine. The CDC has also published guidance and FAQs about the COVID-19 vaccines. AEO also encourages you to speak with your primary care physician about the COVID-19 vaccine.

The Public Health Agency of Canada has also published information about the COVID-19 vaccines.

Is the vaccine dose for children under 12 the same size as the dose for individuals 12 years or older?

No, the dose for children ages 5-11 is one-third (⅓) the size of the dose in use for individuals over 12. To make sure that pharmacists give the appropriate dose, the doses for young children have orange caps, while the standard dose have purple caps. More information about the differences between the different doses is available here.

My child recently had COVID-19. When can they receive the vaccination?

Anyone who has tested positive for COVID-19 must wait to be vaccinated until they are no longer experiencing symptoms of COVID-19 AND meet the criteria to end the isolation period:

- In the case of a symptomatic COVID-19 case, the isolation period can end: (1) 10 days have passed since symptoms first appeared; (2) 24 hours have passed without a fever (without the use of fever-reducing medications); and (3) other COVID-19 symptoms are improving (does not apply to the loss of taste and smell).
- In the case of an asymptomatic COVID-19 case, the isolation period can end 10 days after the positive test.

Note, if an individual has received monoclonal antibodies, they should wait 90 days after recovering from COVID-19 to receive the vaccine.

How effective was the Pfizer vaccine during the clinical trial?

Pfizer conducted a clinical trial that involved 4,600 children ages 5-11. Based on the data, the vaccine was 90.7% effective in preventing COVID-19.

What side effects from the vaccine can I expect for my child?

According to the CDC, vaccine side effects were mild and similar to those seen in adults and with other vaccines recommended for children. The most common side effect was a sore arm.

Other questions? Read more from the CDC, FDA, and Johns Hopkins.