Q: How many doses of the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine will I need?
A: The Pfizer vaccine requires two doses. An initial vaccination and then a booster shot 21 days later.

Q: Is there an age restriction on the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine?
A: You must be at least 16 years old to receive the Pfizer vaccine.

Q: What are the side effects?
A: Pfizer has said that some Phase III clinical trial participants experienced mild-to-moderate side effects with its investigational COVID-19 vaccine candidate. Scientists anticipate that the shots may cause mild flu-like side effects — including sore arms, muscle aches and fever. After vaccination, we will carefully monitor anyone who previously had an allergic reaction that required medical attention.

Q: Is it safe for a pregnant woman to get the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine?
A: There is no data on the safety of COVID-19 vaccines in pregnant women. According to the CDC, if a woman is part of a group (e.g., health care personnel) that is recommended to receive a COVID-19 vaccine, and she is pregnant, she may choose to be vaccinated. There is some data suggesting that pregnant women are at greater risk for severe COVID-19; women may wish to take this into account in their decision-making. We recommend any pregnant woman considering the vaccine reach out to her health care provider to help make an informed decision.

Q: Why did four members of the FDA independent panel vote “no” and one abstain from voting in favor the Emergency Use Authorization (EUA) for the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine?
A: It is not unusual for independent panel votes to have dissents and/or abstentions. Three members of the panel have shared why they voted “no.” Two were concerned that the EUA includes 16- and 17-year-olds, but were not concerned over the actual safety of the vaccine. They felt there was not enough data to include that age group in the EUA. The data included in Pfizer’s application for the EUA only included 153 participants between 16 and 17 years old. They felt more study was necessary before they could approve the vaccine for anyone under 18 years of age. A third panelist felt that the vaccine had not been tested enough in frail populations. Click here to read more.

Q: Can I get the vaccine if I’ve already received another vaccine?
A: The Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine should be administered alone with a minimum interval of 14 days before or after administration of any other vaccines due to lack of data on safety and efficacy of the vaccine administered simultaneously with other vaccines.

Q: What does the vaccine look like, and what ingredients are in the vaccine?
A: The Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine includes the following ingredients: mRNA, lipids, potassium chloride, monobasic potassium phosphate, sodium chloride, dibasic sodium phosphate dihydrate and sucrose. Click here to see the full list of ingredients.
Q: What should I mention to my personal physician before I get the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine?
A: Please talk with your personal physician before getting the vaccine if you:

- have any allergies
- 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
- are pregnant or plan to become pregnant
- are breastfeeding
- have received another COVID-19 vaccine

Q: Who should not get the vaccine?
A: You should not get the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine if you had a severe allergic reaction after a previous dose of this vaccine or had a severe allergic reaction to any ingredient of this vaccine.

Q: Could I experience a severe allergic reaction to the vaccine?
A: There is a remote chance that the vaccine could cause a severe allergic reaction. A severe allergic reaction would usually occur within a few minutes to one hour after getting a dose of the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine. Signs of a severe allergic reaction can include:

- Difficulty breathing
- Swelling of your face and throat
- A fast heartbeat
- A bad rash all over your body
- Dizziness and weakness

These may not be all the possible side effects of the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine. Serious and unexpected side effects may occur. The Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine is still being studied in clinical trials. Click here to read Pfizer COVID-19 Vaccine Allergy Info Sheet.