



## COVID-19 Vaccine: What You Need to Know

After a year of tragedies and tears, the hope of many is to thrive in happiness and freely enjoy the company of their loved ones in this new year. As of December 2020, over 1.7 million people had lost their lives to COVID-19, globally. Currently, several COVID-19 vaccines are in clinical trials because of the lengthy process required to approve a vaccine. Nonetheless, on account of the unprecedented investment in research and development and global cooperation, scientists have been able to develop a vaccine against COVID-19 in record time, while still maintaining robust, evidence-based, and rigorous regulatory standards. However, there is a need to educate people to get COVID-19 vaccinations because the vast majority of people are still vulnerable to coronavirus. The vaccine will teach our bodies to fight the infection and stop us from getting coronavirus, or at least make the virus less deadly.

### Facts you need to know about the COVID-19 Vaccine:

- The first vaccine authorized in the United States was developed by the pharmaceutical giant Pfizer and the German firm BioNTech. It consists of two shots, which are given 3 weeks apart.
- The second approved COVID-19 vaccine, the Moderna's vaccine, was developed by a Massachusetts biotechnology company in partnership with the United States' National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases. It also consists of two shots, given 28 days apart.
- Both vaccines passed rigorous safety reviews by the United States' FDA. Data from 44,000 randomized participants were reviewed in a clinical trial. 38,000 of those participants provided evidence of a favorable safety profile, with no specific safety concerns identified. However, some people had unpleasant but tolerable side effects, such as fatigue, headaches, muscle pain, etc.
- If you have already had COVID-19, you might still benefit from getting the COVID-19 vaccination. The vaccine can protect you by creating an antibody response in your body. Scientists are still investigating natural immunity and the vaccine's effect.
- Everyone needs to continue following all the safety protocols to help stop this pandemic even after getting the COVID-19 vaccine injection. 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.

### Ramping up Readiness for COVID-19 Vaccination:

- How the COVID-19 vaccine will be distributed in Africa as a step to ensure access to sustainable healthcare. [Learn more](#)
- Majority of Africans would take the COVID-19 vaccine if it is safe and effective: [Learn more](#)

