

## **VACCINE INFORMATION FACT SHEET**

### **Pfizer-BioNTech Vaccine (Comirnaty) to Prevent Coronavirus Disease**

The FDA-approved COVID-19 Comirnaty vaccine is the same as the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine that was administered under the FDA's Emergency Use Authorization (EUA).

The vaccine is:

- approved to be administered in a two-dose series, 3 weeks apart, for the prevention of COVID-19 in individuals 16 years of age and older.
- authorized under EUA to be administered to:
  - prevent COVID-19 in individuals 12 through 15 years
  - provide a third dose at least 4 weeks after the second to immunocompromised individuals 12 years of age and older.

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### **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 causes a wide range of symptoms, including 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; diarrhea.

### **What are the benefits of the vaccine?**

The vaccine prevents serious disease, hospitalization and death from the SARS-CoV-2 virus. The duration of protection against COVID-19 is currently unknown.

### **What should you tell your health care provider before you get the vaccine?**

Provide information about all of your medical conditions, especially if you:

- have any allergies to food, medication, environmental pollutants, chemicals, plants, animals, etc.
- have had inflammation of the heart muscle (myocarditis) or the lining outside the heart (pericarditis)
- 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, such as Moderna or Johnson & Johnson
- have received a vaccination against another disease within the last two weeks
- have ever experienced a side effect or injection reaction from a previous vaccination

### **Will the vaccines give me COVID-19?**

No. The vaccine does not contain live SARS-CoV-2 (the virus) cells and cannot give you COVID-19.

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#### **Who should not get the vaccine?**

You should not get the vaccine if you had a severe allergic reaction after a previous dose of this vaccine or have had a severe allergic reaction to any ingredient of this vaccine.

#### **What are the risks of the vaccine?**

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 vaccine. For this reason, it is recommended that you stay at the place where you received your vaccine for monitoring after vaccination.

Signs of a severe allergic reaction include:

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

Myocarditis and pericarditis have occurred in some people within a few days following the second dose of vaccine. The chance of having this occur is very low, and the symptoms typically resolve on their own. You should seek medical attention right away if you have any of the following symptoms after receiving the vaccine:

- chest pain
- shortness of breath
- feelings of having a fast-beating, fluttering, or pounding heart

#### **What should I do about side effects?**

- If you experience a severe allergic reaction, call 9-1-1, or go to the nearest hospital.
- Call the vaccination provider or your healthcare provider if you have any other side effects that bother you or do not go away.

#### **What if I am pregnant or breastfeeding?**

If you are pregnant or breastfeeding, discuss your options about COVID-19 vaccines with your healthcare provider.