



Anishinabek Family Care

## Pfizer BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine Fact Sheet

### What is the Pfizer BioNTech Vaccine?

**2 DOSES**  
**ONE MONTH APART**

It is a vaccine that offers protection against COVID-19. Unlike other vaccines that are usually either live or inactive, this one does not inject you with the virus. Instead, it uses messenger RNA to teach our cells in our body to fight off the COVID-19 virus.

Individuals 16 years and older will receive two doses of the vaccine, with the second one coming three weeks after the first.

### How well does it work?

In clinical studies, the vaccine has shown to be effective against fighting COVID-19 at a rate above 95%. It has also been shown that if you do get COVID-19, that it will give you a much milder version of it, reducing complications.

### Who can and cannot get it?

Phase 1 includes:

- Health care workers
- Essential caregivers
- Long-term care home and retirement home residents
- First Nation communities and urban Indigenous populations, including Métis and Inuit adults

#### ***Before*** you get the vaccine

Tell your vaccination provider about all of your medical conditions, including 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



## **After** you get the vaccine

### **What are the side effects?**

Common side effects include:

- pain in the arm
- swollen lymph nodes
- fatigue
- chills and fever

When receiving the vaccine, the health care provider will ask you to wait for 15 minutes before leaving to ensure there are no adverse effects. It has been found that the second immunization may produce more side effects than the first, as a sign that it is really working.

### **How long will it work?**

As we are still very new to COVID-19, it is unknown if the vaccine will protect you for the rest of your life. However, there is evidence that it will provide protection for one to several years. There may be a need for a booster shot in the future.

### **Will I need to continue to social distance and wear a mask?**

Yes, for the next while. While the vaccine offers protection, it is not 100% fool proof. There is also the need for 70% of the population to receive the vaccine before all of our communities are safe. Thus, for the next few months it is expected that COVID-19 precautions will continue.



### **How is the vaccine transported and stored?**

The Pfizer BioNTech vaccine must be stored long-term at between -60°C to -80°C, but can be kept in a regular vaccine fridge (between 2°C and 8°C) for 5 days.

#### **Sources**

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