



### About the COVID-19 vaccines

One hundred and forty million – **more than half of U.S. adults** – have gotten at least one COVID-19 vaccine dose.<sup>1</sup> Getting vaccinated for COVID is the first step in a long journey to return to normalcy.

The Joint Commission recognizes that accepting any medical treatment can cause some anxiety. We realize that it may be difficult to determine what information to trust. We hope this fact sheet helps answer questions related to your personal vaccination decisions and will provide information that you can use in conversations with your doctor. The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) for emergency use to combat the pandemic in the United States. This means that among tens of thousands of trial participants, each vaccine was highly successful at preventing severe illness, hospitalization and death from COVID-19. They have also met the FDA's stringent standards for safety. The available vaccines are:

- **Pfizer-BioNTech,**

<sup>2</sup> which is 95% effective at preventing laboratory confirmed COVID-19

- **Moderna,**<sup>3</sup> which is 94.1% effective at preventing laboratory-confirmed COVID-19
- **Johnson & Johnson,**<sup>4</sup> which is 85% effective at preventing hospitalization and death from COVID-19

The **Pfizer-BioNTech** and **Moderna** vaccines are mRNA vaccines,<sup>5</sup> a technology that teaches our bodies to produce an immune response to the coronavirus. They both require two doses, 3-4 weeks apart, respectively. The **Johnson & Johnson** vaccine requires one dose. It uses a modified common cold virus as a carrier to deliver instructions to the body to build an immune response to COVID.<sup>6</sup> The modified virus cannot cause a cold because it cannot replicate. This vaccine uses technology that is similar to what's been used to manufacture existing influenza and measles vaccines.<sup>7</sup>

**[FOR CONSUMERS]**



