

Guidance for Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine* Recipients – Interpreting Vaccine Side Effects vs. COVID-19 Symptoms

Some people that receive the COVID-19 vaccine will experience side effects that generally occur within 72 hours of vaccine receipt and last for less than 48 hours (usually about 1 day). These symptoms can occur after either dose but are more common after receipt of the 2nd dose in the two-dose series.

The COVID-19 vaccine does **NOT** cause COVID-19 infection: In the setting of widespread community COVID-19 transmission, there is a possibility that someone could acquire COVID-19 during the time period they are being vaccinated and prior to their immune system having had time to respond to the vaccine.

Please see the list of more common side effects noted with the COVID-19 vaccine as well as a list of symptoms that are more specific to actual COVID-19 infection.

COVID-19 Vaccine Side Effects*	COVID-19 Symptoms
<p>Local (fewer than 0.6% of local reactions were severe)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Injection site pain – common • Redness and swelling – less common <p>Systemic (sorted from most to least common)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fatigue • Headache • Muscle pain • Chills • Joint pain • Fever: 1st dose: 3.7% (age 16-55) to 1.4% (age > 55); 2nd dose: 15.8% (age 16-55) to 10.9%(age > 55) • Vomiting and diarrhea – less common 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dry cough • Shortness of breath • New loss of taste or smell • New significant nasal congestion or sore throat

General instructions for people receiving the vaccine with side effect of fever:

- If you have fever (temperature $\geq 100.5^{\circ}$ F) within 72 hours of receiving the vaccine, stay home. If your fever resolves within 48 hours, and you don't have other signs/symptoms of COVID-19 (such as cough, shortness of breath, new loss of smell or taste, new significant nasal congestion or sore throat), you may return to work.

- If your fever does not resolve within 48 hours, or you have other symptoms worrisome for COVID-19 infection, you should continue to stay home and get tested for COVID-19.

* This information is based on current data available for the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine that received Emergency Use Authorization from the FDA on 11 December 2020.