

TOP 10 Facts about the Pfizer vaccine

- 1 COVID-19 vaccines are already the most well-studied vaccines ever made.
- 2 The Pfizer vaccine has a good safety record and has proven to be effective after millions of doses have been administered worldwide.
- 3 The vast majority of side effects are mild and short-lasting. The damage caused by COVID-19 can be far more serious and long lasting.*
- 4 There are some side effects that are more serious but very rare, like a severe allergic reaction or an inflammation of the heart. If you develop difficulty breathing, a racing heart, chest pain or feel faint immediately or in the days after the vaccine, you should seek medical attention.
- 5 The vaccine cannot affect your DNA.
- 6 Data from England shows that two doses of the Pfizer vaccine is highly effective against the Delta variant.
- 7 Data from around the world shows that there are no safety concerns about giving the COVID-19 vaccine to pregnant women.
- 8 Women who are breastfeeding can safely have the COVID-19 vaccine. They are likely to share their antibodies with the baby.
- 9 You can safely have the vaccine when you are trying for a baby.
- 10 The vaccine requires two doses to give maximum protection.

HP7755 | 24 Sept 2021

How can I get the COVID-19 vaccine?



To book in your appointments for both doses of the vaccine, the easiest way to do this is online:

To book your appointment go to:
[BookMyVaccine.nz](https://bookmyvaccine.nz)

Otherwise, call the **COVID Vaccination Healthline** on **0800 28 29 26** (8am to 8pm, 7 days a week) and we'll make the bookings for you and answer any questions.

* To learn more about the possible side effects from the Pfizer vaccine go to: covid19.govt.nz/vaccine-side-effects

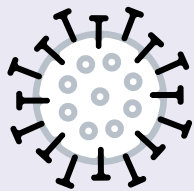


COVID-19 vaccination Get the facts

Here's the information you need about how the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine works to protect you and your whānau.

How does the vaccine work?

The vaccine you will receive is made by Pfizer/BioNtech. It does not contain any parts of the virus. You cannot catch COVID-19 from the vaccine. Here is how it works to protect you.



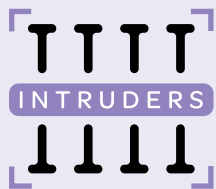
Send

The **vaccine** sends a set of instructions to teach your body how to fight the COVID-19 virus.



Learn

With these instructions your body learns to recognise the COVID-19 virus and use **antibodies** against it. Antibodies stop the virus from infecting your cells and help to kill it.



Protect

That means if you come into contact with the COVID-19 virus in the future, **your body will have the right tools to protect itself** so you are less likely to get sick.

How was the vaccine developed so quickly?

Global collaboration

This is the first time scientists and governments from around the world have united to develop a vaccine. This global collaboration meant vaccines were developed very quickly but without taking any shortcuts in the necessary processes or compromising safety.

Researchers had a head start

The mRNA vaccine is not new technology and has been studied for over a decade, including for the development of other vaccines such as the seasonal flu vaccine.

Unlimited resources

An enormous amount of money and time have been spent developing this vaccine.

No shortcuts

The various stages of research development happened at the same time.

The COVID-19 vaccine has been through all the same research steps as other vaccines.



How do we know the vaccine will protect me against COVID-19?

Clinical trials

We know the Pfizer vaccine works because it went through months of clinical testing with more than 40,000 people before it was approved for use. Clinical trials compared the results of a vaccinated group with another group who received a placebo (salt solution).

In the clinical trials it was found that the **Pfizer vaccine gave 95% protection against the symptoms of COVID-19.**

Real world data

Evidence shows the vaccine is very effective against the Delta variant.

Two doses of the vaccine are very effective at protecting against Delta symptoms, and especially against severe illness requiring hospitalisation.

Evidence also shows that the few vaccinated people who do get the Delta variant, tend to have a milder illness with less symptoms.