



## Guidance for Interpreting Expected Vaccine Side Effects Versus COVID-19 Symptoms

Some people that receive the COVID-19 vaccine may experience some symptoms, which generally occur within 72 hours of receiving the vaccine receipt. These symptoms typically last less than 48 hours, usually about 24 hours. Symptoms can occur after the first and second dose but are more common after receipt of the second dose in the 2-dose series.

*Important Note: The COVID-19 vaccine does **NOT** cause COVID-19 infection.*

There is widespread COVID-19 transmission in the community and as vaccines are given 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 below of common side effects noted with the COVID-19 vaccine, as well as a list of symptoms that are more specific for the actual COVID-19 infection.

### **General instructions for people receiving the vaccine:**

If you have fever (temperature  $\geq 100.5$  F) within 72 hours of receiving the vaccine, stay home. If your fever resolves within 48 hours, and you do not 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.

COVID-19 Vaccine Side Effects*	COVID-19 Symptoms
<p><b>Local</b> (less than 0.6% of local reactions were severe)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>*Injection site pain – Common</li> <li>*Redness and swelling – Less commonly seen</li> </ul> <p><b>Systemic</b> (listed by most common to less common)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>*Fatigue</li> <li>*Headache</li> <li>*Muscle pain</li> <li>*Chills</li> <li>*Joint pain</li> <li>*Fever: 1<sup>st</sup> dose: 3.7% (age 6-55) to 1.4% (age&gt;55); 2<sup>nd</sup> dose: 15.8%(age 16-55) to 10.9%(age&gt;55)</li> <li>*Vomiting and diarrhea – Less common</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>*Dry cough</li> <li>*Shortness of breath</li> <li>*New loss of taste or smell</li> <li>*New significant nasal congestion or sore throat</li> </ul>

\*This information is based on data from the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine FDA approval.