

## **Pfizer COVID vaccine information for 16 years of age and above**

1. **Does PAC recommend the Pfizer COVID vaccine?** Yes
2. **Which vaccine is emergency use authorized by the FDA?** Pfizer is currently the only vaccine for 16 and above.
3. **How does the Pfizer vaccine work?** mRNA is introduced into the cell to tell the cell to make a spike protein to which your body will make antibodies. The mRNA is very delicate and is quickly broken down by your body within 24 hours.
4. **Was this vaccine developed too fast?** The vaccine trial included 30,000 people, which is 30 times the threshold considered sufficient. The reason the trial went quickly is because there was so much COVID around that they hit the endpoint of sufficient people in the trial getting COVID in a short amount of time. The trial should be considered well run.
5. **Is the vaccine safe?** We acknowledge that there will be events that happen that will have to be looked at in detail to see if they are related to the vaccine. The United States is currently vaccinating 2 million people per day. This data is being collected very quickly and being compared to the data collected when the Pfizer vaccine trial started in April of 2020. There have not been safety concerns to date that have stopped the trials or distribution of the vaccine.
6. **What is the risk of anaphylaxis?** It is 1 in 100,000 which is the typical rate for vaccines. All episodes of anaphylaxis to date have responded to 1 dose of epinephrine and happened within the 15 minutes window of observation after the vaccine.
7. **Is the vaccine better than natural protection from having COVID?** Yes. The vaccine provides coverage against variants of COVID where natural immunity from one variant will not necessarily provide immunity to another variant.
8. **Does the current COVID antibody test show whether you have antibodies from the COVID vaccine?** No. The current commercially available antibody test does not test for antibodies to the spike protein produced with the vaccine. There are antibody tests to the spike protein available for research purposes for the vaccine trials.
9. **Does the vaccine cause infertility?** No. There were a few scientists initially concerned that the spike protein was similar to a protein made by the placenta. Geneticists sequenced the pattern of both proteins and they are different.
10. **Should I wait and get the Moderna vaccine?** No. We would recommend getting the vaccine as soon as it is available to you. We would recommend getting either the Pfizer or the Moderna. The Moderna trial may not end until the beginning of next year for patients 12 and above because it will depend on how many people in the trial get COVID for the trial to reach its endpoint. Children and teenagers immune systems are not exactly the same as adults. They are not little adults. We want the trials to be run well so we have the same confidence in the results for the children as we do for the adults.