

# The COVID-19 Vaccines

Red Cliff Community Health Center  
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## What COVID-19 vaccines will be available in Red Cliff?

We anticipate that there will be two vaccines available by January 2021. Pfizer-BioNTech and Moderna both introduced mRNA vaccines in November 2020 that have demonstrated 95% efficacy against SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19. As of December 10, 2020, Pfizer's vaccine has been approved by the FDA for emergency use. Moderna's vaccine will be up for review in the coming week.

## Benefits of Vaccination

- May prevent you from getting seriously ill if you get COVID-19.
- Is potentially a safer way to build immunity than natural infection with COVID-19.
- A vaccine in combination with public health safety measures (ie. masks, social distancing) can help curb the pandemic faster than letting the disease take its natural course.
- May protect those around you, particularly those at increased risk for serious illness from COVID-19.

## Potential side effects

- Muscle or joint pain
- Headaches
- Chills
- Fatigue
- Pain, redness and/or swelling at injection site

## What is an mRNA Vaccine?

An mRNA vaccine contains information about a disease that instructs cells in your body to express “spike proteins” on their surfaces. On encountering these proteins, your immune system starts making army cells against them, thereby priming you to fight COVID-19 if you do encounter the virus in the near future.

The technology for mRNA vaccines has been around for years. Severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS) in 2003 and Middle East respiratory syndrome (MERS) in 2012 are two diseases also caused by coronaviruses for which mRNA vaccines were developed but never fully realized, as these illnesses were easier to contain. Scientists have benefitted from their blueprints to quickly develop the current mRNA COVID-19 vaccines that will soon be used in the United States.

## What to Expect

Both the Pfizer and Moderna vaccines are two-shot series given 3 and 4 weeks apart, respectively. We recently received a shipment of 60 doses of the Pfizer vaccine and anticipate additional doses of the Moderna vaccine in the coming weeks. Because we do anticipate a shortage, we will be rolling out the vaccine in a controlled manner according to the following tiers:

Tier 1: Healthcare, EMS, PD and other critical infrastructure personnel

Tier 2: Elders (55+), High risk with underlying conditions, essential employees

Tier 3: General public \*18 - 54

The Health Center is preparing for mass vaccination within the community. Details will be posted as more information becomes available.

For more information:

[www.cdc.gov](http://www.cdc.gov)  
[www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/covid-19](http://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/covid-19)  
[www.pfizer.com](http://www.pfizer.com)  
[www.modernatx.com](http://www.modernatx.com)