



# COVID-19 VACCINE FACTS

- Current vaccines have been FDA approved for Emergency Use Authorization following three phases of testing on thousands of people.
- The CDC's Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices recommends that healthcare personnel be among those offered the first doses of COVID-19 vaccines.
- The Oklahoma State Department of Health has approved current COVID-19 vaccines for distribution in Oklahoma with healthcare workers among the first to be given the opportunity to be vaccinated.
- Both approved COVID-19 vaccines are mRNA vaccines, like the measles vaccine. These mRNA vaccines protect against infectious diseases by instructing our cells how to make a protein — or just a piece of a protein — that triggers an immune response inside our bodies. That immune response produces antibodies that protect us from acquiring infection when exposed to the actual virus. COVID-19 mRNA vaccines give instructions for our cells to make a harmless piece of what is called the “spike protein.” The spike protein is found on the surface of the virus that causes COVID-19. Our immune systems recognize that the protein doesn't belong there and begin building an immune response and making antibodies, like what happens in natural infection against COVID-19.
- The vaccine is a two-part vaccine, requiring that you get two doses to assure immunity. For the Pfizer vaccine the doses are 21 days apart. For the Moderna vaccine, the doses are 28 days apart.
- The vaccine is 95% effective for all adults, based upon the clinical trials.
- Few side effects were reported, but included fever, headache and fatigue.
- Please continue to follow all transmission-based protocols even after being fully vaccinated.