Two COVID-19 vaccines are currently available in the U.S. Pfizer-BioNTech and Moderna both have received emergency use authorization from the Food and Drug Administration to make their vaccines available to the public.

There will be a limited supply when the first vaccine is approved. The Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices recommends health care workers and people vulnerable to severe illness from the virus — such as those living in long-term care facilities will get first priority access.

While you’re waiting for a COVID-19 vaccine, please continue to follow public safety guidelines, including physical distancing, frequent hand-washing, limiting group gatherings, restricting nonessential travel, and wearing a face covering.

#CovidVaccineSavesLives
#StayHomeSaveLives

California Rural Indian Health Board, Inc.
CRIHB COVID-19 Resources:

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**COVID-19 vaccine approval timeline:**

**On December 11, 2020:** The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) issued an Emergency Use Authorization (EUA) for the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine.

**On December 18, 2020:** The FDA issued an EUA for Moderna COVID-19 vaccine.

Both vaccines contain messenger RNA (mRNA), which is genetic material. This vaccine contains a small piece of the SARS-CoV-2 virus's mRNA that tells cells in the body to make the virus’s “spike” protein. When a person receives this vaccine, their body will produce copies of the “spike” protein. This protein does not cause disease but will trigger the immune system to produce a response against SARS-CoV-2.

Both vaccines have been shown to be very effective, about 95% effective in preventing COVID-19.

You will need two vaccinations in order to be fully protected. The first and second Pfizer vaccinations should be given 21 days apart, and the first and second Moderna vaccinations should be given 28 days apart.

Both vaccines have mild and temporary side effects, including pain at the injection site, headache, fever, fatigue, chills, and muscle and joint pain.

Individuals with severe allergic reactions to other vaccines should consult their doctor in case they may be allergic to a component of the vaccine. They should be observed for 30 minutes following injection rather than the usual 15 minutes. It is recommended that individuals who carry an EpiPen for their allergies should bring it to their appointment.

CDC notes that women who are pregnant or breastfeeding can be presented the option to vaccinate. Talk to your health care practitioner if you have any concerns about whether you should receive it.

For more information about the COVID-19 vaccine, go to: [https://covid19.ca.gov/vaccines/](https://covid19.ca.gov/vaccines/)