

WHAT IS AN EMERGENCY USE AUTHORIZATION?

#CovidVaccineSavesLives

#StayHomeSaveLives



California Rural Indian Health Board, Inc.
COVID-19 Resources:
<https://crihb.org/prevention-and-education/public-health/>



Vaccines are tested for safety through clinical trials before they are offered to the public. The COVID vaccines went through clinical trials but the process was much faster than usual because of the urgent need due to the pandemic. Each step in the clinical trial was performed according to the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) standards for developing any new vaccine. The process was accelerated because steps overlapped but no step was shortened or skipped.

An emergency use authorization (EUA) is used by the FDA to approve a product for use when the Secretary of Health and Human Services has declared a public health emergency. It is based on less information than a full FDA approval but with enough data to say that the benefit outweighs the risk. Right now, the Pfizer and Moderna COVID vaccines have received an EUA from the FDA. The EUA will end when the Secretary determines that its need no longer exists or when there is a change in authorization of the vaccine.

Source: <https://www.fda.gov/vaccines-blood-biologics/vaccines/emergency-use-authorization-vaccines-explained>

Moderna EUA Fact Sheet: <https://www.fda.gov/media/144637/download>

Pfizer-BioNTech EUA Fact Sheet: <https://www.fda.gov/media/144413/download>

Both the Moderna and Pfizer 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. 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, but first talk to your health care practitioner if you have any concerns about whether you should receive it.