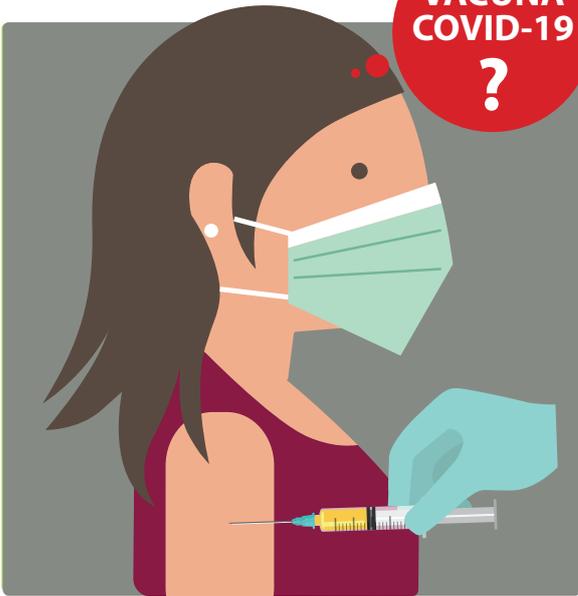


## HIV AND COVID-19 VACCINES

VACUNA  
COVID-19  
?



Vaccines are one of the developments in public health that have most benefited humanity. COVID-19 vaccines not only prevent serious illness and death from this disease, but also reduce potential transmission. COVID-19 vaccines offer people with HIV the same benefits as the rest of the population.

### 01

#### HOW DO COVID-19 VACCINES WORK?

COVID-19 vaccines help our immune system to protect itself against the virus that causes the disease. This protection –or immunity– against the virus is possible because of the immune memory generated by the vaccine. This memory enables the immune system to react quickly if the body comes into contact with the same virus again.

Occasionally, symptoms such as fever appear after vaccination. These symptoms are normal and are a sign that the body is developing immunity.

After the full vaccination schedule, the body generally takes two weeks to develop immunity to the virus that causes COVID-19.

### 02

#### ARE THEY SAFE AND EFFECTIVE?

Authorized and recommended COVID-19 vaccines have been developed in accordance with all the regular quality standards. The vaccines are safe and effective and reduce the risk of serious illness and death from COVID-19.

There are several types of COVID-19 vaccines that act in different ways to provide immunity. None of the vaccines authorized or being researched can cause the disease.

COVID-19 vaccines are given either in one or two doses. A person is considered completely protected two weeks after having received the last dose of the vaccination schedule.

If fewer than two weeks have elapsed since you were vaccinated, or if you have not received the second dose yet, then you are not fully protected. In this case, you should take measures to protect yourself and others until you are fully vaccinated.

Some people with a weakened immune system and those who are receiving specific immunosuppressive therapies (that reduce immune system activity) may develop lower immunity than the population at large after the full vaccination schedule for COVID-19. In these specific population groups, receiving an additional dose of vaccine is recommendable.

**gt** grupo de trabajo sobre tratamientos del VIH  
ENTIDAD DECLARADA DE UTILIDAD PÚBLICA  
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¡POR FAVOR FOTOCÓPIALO Y HAZLO CIRCULAR!

| Name of vaccine        | Effectiveness | Number of doses required to complete the full vaccination | Time required to develop immunity | Contraindicated   |
|------------------------|---------------|---|-----------------------------------|---|
| <b>Pfizer BioNTech</b> | 95%           | 2 doses with an interval of 21 days between               | Two weeks after the second dose   | People with allergies to any of the components of the vaccine |
| <b>Moderna Lonza</b>   | 94,5%         | 2 doses with an interval of 28 days between               | Two weeks after the second dose   | People with allergies to any of the components of the vaccine |
| <b>Janssen</b>         | 66,9%         | 1 dose  | Two weeks after a single dose     | People with allergies to any of the components of the vaccine |

### 03 ARE COVID-19 VACCINES SAFE AND EFFECTIVE IN PEOPLE WITH HIV?

COVID-19 vaccines are safe and effective and provide people with HIV the same benefits as the rest of the population.

Vaccines do not interact with antiretroviral medication. This means that the vaccine does not influence the effectiveness of HIV treatment which, in turn, has no impact on the vaccine's effectiveness.

COVID-19 vaccines are recommended for everyone with HIV. They are even more recommendable for immunocompromised people with HIV (or, in other words, people with a CD4 count of fewer than 200 cells/mm<sup>3</sup>) and for those not receiving antiretroviral treatment. These people may be at greater risk of developing serious illness or of dying should they contract COVID-19.

**Source:** COVID-19 Vaccination Technical Workgroup of the Committee for Immunisation Programme and Registry. COVID-19 vaccination strategy in Spain. Update 9 amended. 2 November 2021.

### 04 SHOULD I BE GIVEN AN ADDITIONAL DOSE OF VACCINE?

Additional doses are given to people who have a weakened immune system and who therefore do not develop the right level of protection with the established vaccination schedule for the population at large.

Immunocompromised people with HIV (people with a CD4 count of fewer than 200 cells/mm<sup>3</sup>) and those not receiving antiretroviral treatment may benefit from an additional dose of vaccine to make sure they are sufficiently protected against COVID-19.

These people should be given the additional vaccination at least 28 days after the second dose of the Pfizer-BioNTech or Moderna-Lonza vaccine.

For the time being, the health authorities do not recommend an additional COVID-19 vaccination for people with HIV who are receiving antiretroviral treatment and who have an undetectable viral load and a high CD4 cell count. People of 60 years or older should, however, be given a third dose, like other people who do not have HIV.

If you wish to know whether you should be given an additional dose of COVID-19 vaccine, please contact your HIV unit or your health centre.

**Note:** The information that appears on this sheet is not intended to replace advice from a health professional. Health decisions should always be taken after consulting health professionals.



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