



COVID-19 VACCINE
DSMIG-USA POSITION STATEMENT

Down Syndrome Affiliates in Action
 February 19, 2021 | Brian Chicoine, MD

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Adult Down Syndrome Center



Our mission is to enhance the well-being of people with Down syndrome who are 12 and older by using a team approach to provide comprehensive, holistic, community-based health care services.

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Down Syndrome Medical Interest Group

- Group of health professionals from a variety of disciplines who provide care to individuals with Down syndrome and/or their families.
- Committed to promoting the optimal health care and wellness of individuals with DS across the lifespan.


 **DSMIG-USA**
 Down Syndrome Medical Interest Group-USA
<https://dsmig-usa.org>

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DSMIG-USA Position Statement

- Should my loved one with Down syndrome get the COVID-19 vaccine?
- Statement issued on December 16, 2020 and updated on January 5, 2021.


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Who contributed to the position statement?

- DSMIG members experienced with COVID-19 in people with DS/IDD


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Official Signatories




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Why is this statement important?

- United States statistics
 - >27.2 million cases
 - >468,000 deaths
- People with Down syndrome and other intellectual disabilities have been disproportionately affected by the COVID-19 pandemic compared to the general population

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“Certainly, it’s not going to be a pandemic for a lot longer, because I believe the vaccines are going to turn that around. Vaccines will help us. What we’ve got to do is just hang on and continue to double down on the public health measures”

Dr. Anthony Fauci

Director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases

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DMSIG-USA Position Statement

We recommend the COVID-19 vaccine for individuals with Down syndrome or other intellectual disabilities who do not have a specific contraindication to the vaccine

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Down Syndrome Medical Interest Group-USA

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Information about the COVID-19 vaccines

- U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has issued Emergency Use Authorizations (EUAs) for 2 COVID-19 vaccines: **Pfizer-BioNTech** and **Moderna**
 - Studied in clinical trials and met safety and effectiveness requirements.

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COVID-19 vaccine trials by the numbers

As of November 30, 2020

Pfizer/BioNTech

- 43,931 enrolled
- 150 clinical sites
 - 39 U.S. states
- Racial/ethnic distribution
 - 13% - Hispanic
 - 10% - African American
 - 6% - Asian
 - 1% - Native American
- 45% ages 56-85

Moderna

- 30,000 enrolled
- 89 clinical sites
 - 32 U.S. states
- Racial/ethnic distribution
 - 63% - White
 - 20% - Hispanic
 - 10% - African American/Black
 - 4% - Asian
 - 3% - All others
- 64% ages 45 and older
 - 39% ages 45-64
 - 25% ages 65+



Sources: <https://www.pfizer.com/science/coronavirus/vaccine>
<https://www.modernatx.com/cove-study>
 For more information, visit www.clinicaltrials.gov

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mRNA vaccines

- **Pfizer-BioNTech** and **Moderna** COVID-19 vaccines
- Cause human cells to make a harmless piece of the “spike protein” of the COVID-19 virus
- Immune system develops immunity against the protein
- Do NOT contain a live virus
- Do NOT affect or interact with a person’s DNA

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Adenovirus-based vaccine

- **Johnson & Johnson** COVID-19 vaccine
 - Has not been issued an EUA
- **Recombinant adenoviral vector vaccine**
 - Adenovirus = weakened live pathogen
 - Contains small piece of genetic material from the COVID-19 virus
 - Triggers an immune response
 - Vector = delivery method

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Who was not included in the studies?

- People with Down syndrome or other intellectual disabilities
 - People with DS/IDD are not usually included in studies of vaccines, medications, or supplements
- Children
 - Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine for 16 years and older
 - Moderna vaccine for ages 18 years and older

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COVID-19 Vaccines


	Pfizer – BioNTech	Moderna	Johnson & Johnson
Type of vaccine	mRNA	mRNA	adenovirus
EUA date	12/11/2020	12/18/2020	Has not been issued an EUA
# of shots	2 shots, 21 days apart	2 shots, 28 days apart	1 shot
Age	16 +	18 +	Has not been determined
Storage	Can be stored in refrigerator for 5 days	Can be stored in refrigerator for 30 days	Can be stored in refrigerator for up to 3 months
Effectiveness	95%	94.1%	66% **

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Potential side effects

- In the arm where you got the shot:
 - Pain/soreness
 - Swelling
 - Redness
- Throughout the rest of your body:
 - Chills
 - Tiredness
 - Headache
 - Muscle aches
 - Fever

Similar to other vaccines; normal signs that your body is building protection


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Are there people who should not get the vaccine?

- Severe allergic reaction (anaphylaxis) in response to the first dose of the COVID-19 vaccine.
- If a person had a severe allergic reaction (anaphylaxis) to a previous different injectable therapy (medication or vaccine), consider potential deferral of vaccination.


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COVID-19 vaccines

- Concerns in the Down syndrome community
 - People with immunocompromised conditions
 - Autoimmunity and Interferon
- Guillain-Barre syndrome

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Summary

- Lack of data in people with DS/IDD
- Well-studied in general population
- The disproportionate effect of the pandemic on DS/IDD
- Experience with previous vaccines

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Studies to date indicate the vaccine is a safe path to reduce symptomatic COVID-19 with the potential to save lives and aid in a more rapid return to the many aspects of our lives that have been altered.

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Continue to wear a mask and practice physical distancing

- Pfizer-BioNTech and Moderna vaccines are 2-dose series, takes 2-3 weeks following the 2nd dose to be considered fully vaccinated
- Vaccines are not 100%
 - Prevent serious illness but may still be able to get and/or transmit COVID-19
- How long immunity lasts
- Herd immunity


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<https://dsmig-usa.org>

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<https://www.dsmig-usa.org/covid19>




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References

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Additional slides

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Ingredients* included in mRNA COVID-19 vaccines

Description	Pfizer-BioNTech	Moderna
mRNA	Nucleoside-modified mRNA encoding the viral spike (S) glycoprotein of SARS-CoV-2	Nucleoside-modified mRNA encoding the viral spike (S) glycoprotein of SARS-CoV-2
Lipids	2[(polyethylene glycol)-2000]-N,N'-ditetradecylacetamide	Polyethylene glycol (PEG) 2000 dimyristoyl glycerol (DMG)
	1,2-distearoyl-sn-glycero-3-phosphocholine	1,2-distearoyl-sn-glycero-3-phosphocholine
	Cholesterol	Cholesterol
	(4-hydroxybutyl)azanediy(bis(hexane-6,1-diyl(bis(2-henyldecanoate)))	SM-102
Salts, sugars, buffers	Potassium chloride	Tromethamine
	Monobasic potassium phosphate	Tromethamine hydrochloride
	Sodium chloride	Acetic acid
	Dibasic sodium phosphate dihydrate	Sodium acetate
	Sucrose	sucrose

*As reported in the prescriber information

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What if I have had COVID?

- CDC recommendation is to get the vaccine after illness has resolved and you no longer need to isolate.
- Delay 90 days?
 - Current evidence suggests that it is uncommon to become reinfected with the COVID-19 vaccine during the 90 days after initial infection.

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Will I test positive for COVID after I get the vaccine?

- Cannot get COVID-19 from the vaccine
- Receiving the COVID-19 vaccine will not affect results of viral tests (e.g., nose swabs)
- May test positive on some antibody tests
