WHAT DO THE VACCINES DO?
The Pfizer-BioNTech, Moderna and Janssen COVID-19 vaccines (Johnson & Johnson) and other COVID-19 candidate vaccines were developed to prevent infection from SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19.

- Vaccines activate your body to make antibodies that can block entry of the SARS-CoV-2 into your cells. They take advantage of the process that cells use to make proteins in order to trigger an immune response.

- The proteins are recognized by your immune system as foreign, and your body makes antibodies that prevent you from getting sick if exposed to real COVID-19 disease.

- Although the Pfizer and Moderna vaccines are the first mRNA vaccines, this technology has been under study for nearly two decades. These years of research are what make scientists confident that mRNA vaccines will not damage recipients' genes.

- The Janssen vaccine is a viral vector vaccine type. An adenovirus was modified to instruct cells to make the COVID-19 virus “spike” protein, which protects the person from getting infected with COVID-19.

ARE COVID-19 VACCINES SAFE?
The same rigorous safety reviews of other vaccines authorized for use by the Food and Drug Administration have been applied to COVID-19 vaccines. The FDA and Centers for Disease Control continue to monitor safety.

- The Emergency Use Authorization, or EUA, currently in place means that these vaccines are not fully approved or yet licensed by the FDA.

- However, an EUA is issued based on the review of the scientific evidence available at this time that shows a vaccine is generally safe and effective.

- The EUA also establishes that known and potential benefits of the vaccine used to prevent COVID-19 outweigh its known and potential risks.

HOW WAS THE VACCINE PRODUCED SO FAST?
SARS-CoV-2, which led to the COVID-19 pandemic, is part of a large family of coronaviruses. It is one of seven types of coronavirus, which include Middle East respiratory syndrome (MERS) and sudden acute respiratory syndrome (SARS). Experts have been studying coronavirus for decades, so when SARS-CoV-2 emerged a vaccine was built on existing research.
The U.S. government dedicated a substantial amount of funding toward COVID-19 vaccine development. It took unprecedented steps to cut government red tape, but not safety.

- Pfizer-BioNTech and Moderna research in mRNA technology began in the early 1990’s which has been tested on viruses like influenza and SARS.

- The Janssen COVID-19 (Johnson & Johnson) vaccine uses viral vector technology which has been studied since the 1970s. Viral vector technology uses a weakened form of a different virus and carries instructions for cells to make the spike protein found on SARS-CoV-2, the virus which causes COVID-19.

**WHAT ARE THE KNOWN RISKS?**

**Vaccine Side Effects**
- Fever
- Headache
- Fatigue
- Muscle and Joint Pain
- Injection Site Pain, Swelling, and/or Redness

**COVID-19 Symptoms**
- Fever
- Headache
- Fatigue
- Muscle and Joint Pain
- Chills
- Cough
- Sore Throat
- Loss of味覺 or Smell
- Shortness of Breath
- Difficulty Breathing
- Sneezing
- Stuffy Nose
- Diarrhea
- Longer lasting symptom challenges

**GETTING A COVID-19 VACCINE IS YOUR CHOICE**

- Talk to your primary care physician and ask questions until you feel confident that you have received enough information.

- Millions of Americans have been vaccinated for COVID-19 with little to no side effects.

- Talk to friends and families who have chosen a COVID-19 vaccine. Ask them about their experience and why they decided to get vaccinated.

- COVID-19 vaccines have and continue to receive intensive safety monitoring.

- You can also reach out to the Military Health System Nurse Advice Line at 1-800-TRICARE (874-2273), option 1 in the United States. Or for those outside the United States, go to MHSNurseAdviceLine.com for country-specific phone numbers.

- The FDA and CDC also have a significant amount of information available to anyone interested in learning more about the COVID-19 vaccines.
WHERE CAN I GO TO GET A COVID-19 VACCINE?

TRICARE.mil/VaccineAppointments can help you find a vaccine site location near you.

- The DoD is currently providing the Pfizer-BioNTech, Moderna and Janssen COVID-19 (Johnson & Johnson) vaccines. The specific brand of vaccine for appointments may vary depending on what the hospital or clinic has available.