



North Austin  
Pediatrics, P.A.

## WHAT TO DO IF YOU HAVE A REACTION TO THE COVID-19 VACCINATION

- Most people have side effects from the vaccination, but these usually only last 24 – 48 hours after receipt of the vaccination. A few people may have no side effects at all. Most people will experience pain, redness and/or soreness at the injection site. Many people will have a headache, fever, chills, muscle pain and/or fatigue from the vaccine, particularly after the second dose. A few people will have nausea or swollen lymph nodes (lymphadenopathy).
- In rare circumstances, the vaccine may cause a severe allergic reaction which can include anaphylaxis (difficulty breathing), swelling of the face and throat, a fast heartbeat, a rash all over the body, dizziness and/or weakness.

### What should you do if you have a reaction?

If you experience any of the following:

- Red, sore arm at and around the injection site:
  - o Apply an ice pack to the affected area for comfort.
  - o If condition does not improve or worsens in 24 to 48 hours, call your physician.
- Fever, achiness, fatigue and/or headache:
  - o For under 18 years, please see medication dosage chart on our website at [www.naustinpeds.com](http://www.naustinpeds.com)
  - o For adults 18 and over: Take the non-prescription product that you would usually use for discomfort or fever relief as needed.
  - o If condition does not improve or worsens in 24 – 48 hours, call your physician.
- Unusual or severe reaction (for example, hives, difficulty breathing, wheezing, allergic reaction):
  - o Immediately call your physician, call 911 or go to the emergency room or nearest urgent care center.
- In addition, you may report vaccine side effects to the FDA/CDC Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System (VAERS). The VAERS toll-free number is 1-800-822-7967 or report online to <https://vaers.hhs.gov/reportevent.html>

### Information about the COVID-19 Vaccine

- **The COVID-19 vaccines are not live virus vaccines so the vaccines cannot infect anyone with COVID-19.**
- **All needles and syringes are sterile, are one-time use and are safely discarded.**
- **According to data, the COVID-19 vaccine has approximately a 94% success rate in completely protecting those who receive it. The remainder have partial protection and will have greatly lessened symptoms if they do contract COVID-19.**
- **The vaccine will begin to provide protection about one to two weeks after the second shot of the series is given.**
- **At this time, we do not know how long the COVID-19 vaccine is effective for, so you may need future vaccines to remain protected.**
- **While the COVID-19 vaccination does provide protection against infection or greatly lessened symptoms if you contract COVID-19, you should continue to practice hand hygiene and use appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE).**