1. **Is Moderna an mRNA vaccine?**

   Yes. Moderna uses messenger RNA (mRNA) which provides instructions to cells in our bodies to make a viral protein from the coronavirus called a “spike protein”. The mRNA provides the instructions that allow the cell to make the spike protein, and then the immune system is activated to recognize the spike protein as being different from the body’s own proteins and initiates an immune response. The mRNA is then degraded by normal cellular mechanisms and the spike proteins are destroyed by the immune system.

2. **Does the Moderna vaccine have different side-effects than the Pfizer vaccine?**

   In general, the side effects observed during the clinical trials are similar to what you might have with other vaccines. The side effects that followed vaccine administration in clinical trials were mild or moderate. They included things like pain at the injection site, chills, fatigue and fever. These are common side effects of vaccines and do not pose a risk to health.

   As with all vaccines, there’s a chance that there will be a serious side effect, but these are rare. A serious side effect might be something like an allergic reaction. Speak with your health professional about any serious allergies or other health conditions you may have before you receive this vaccine.

   Health Canada has conducted a rigorous scientific review of the available medical evidence to assess the safety of the Moderna COVID-19 vaccine. No major safety concerns have been identified.

3. **Is the Moderna vaccine more effective?**

   In clinical trials, the Moderna vaccine has shown to have similar effectiveness as the Pfizer vaccine. Both vaccines are effective.

4. **Does the Moderna vaccine need a booster?**

   Yes. For the vaccine to work best, you need to get 2 doses: a single dose and then a second dose one month apart.
5. **What is the difference between the Pfizer and Moderna vaccines?**

Both the Pfizer and Moderna vaccines are very similar. The Pfizer vaccine has to be kept in conditions around -70 degrees Celsius. There are differences in the ingredients of both vaccines. Both Moderna and Pfizer use messenger RNA (mRNA). Please see Question 1 for more details.

6. **Do I get a choice on which vaccine I receive?**

No. In clinical trials, both vaccines were higher than 90% effective. Which vaccine you get will depend on:

- Supply
- Availability at the time
- Storage requirements

7. **Are the vaccines made from the same ingredients?**

No. Health Canada lists both [Pfizer](https://www.pfizer.com) and [Moderna](https://www.moderna.com) vaccines ingredients on their website.