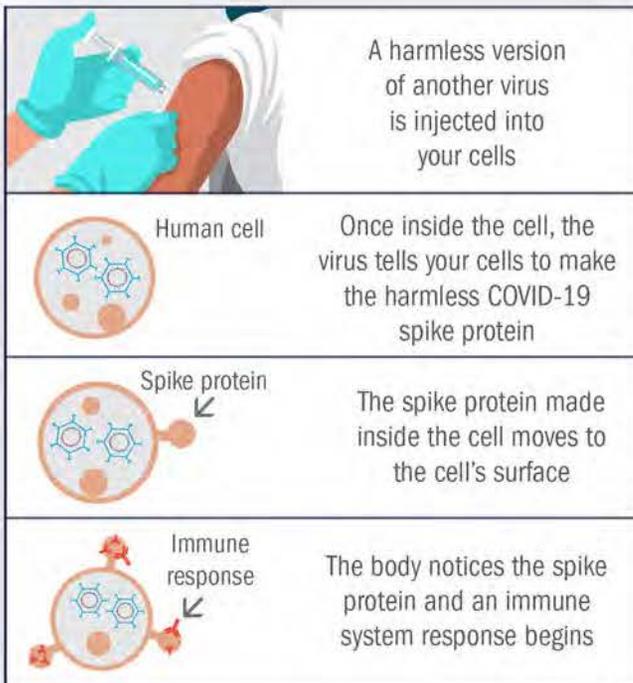
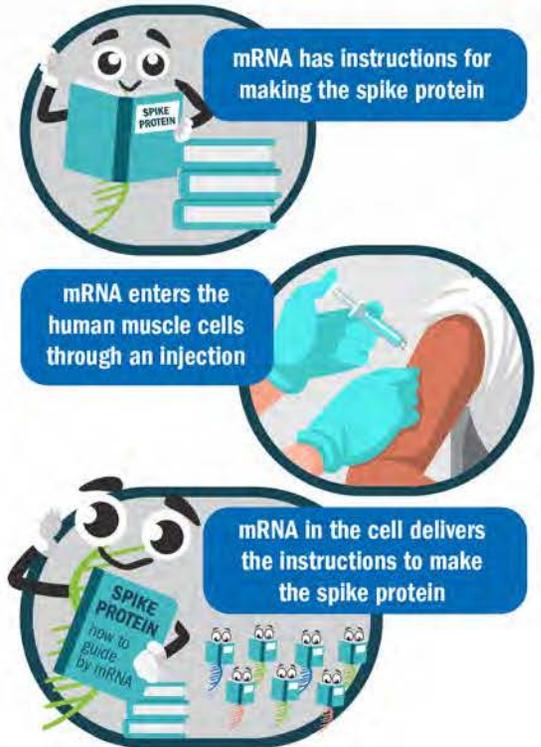


Get to Know the COVID-19 Vaccines

How do the Vaccines Work?

mRNA

- mRNA research began in the 1990s - that's why Pfizer-BioNTech and Moderna were able to develop an mRNA vaccine so quickly.
- Experts have been developing this technology for nearly two decades.
 - mRNA vaccines do not affect or interact with your DNA (genetic material) in any way.
- Unlike many vaccines that put a weakened or inactivated germ into your body, mRNA vaccines teach cells how to make a harmless "spike" protein, which is also found on the surface of the virus that causes COVID-19, that triggers an immune response inside bodies.



Viral Vector Vaccines

- The Janssen COVID-19 (Johnson & Johnson) vaccine uses viral vector technology which has been studied since the 1970s.
- Viral vector vaccines use a harmless version of a different virus (the vector) to enter cells in your body and cause them to produce a harmless spike protein like the one found on the surface of the virus that causes COVID-19.
- This triggers your immune system to respond and start making antibodies and activating other immune cells to fight off what it thinks is an infection.
- If you are exposed to the real coronavirus later, your body will recognize it and know how to fight it off.

To learn more, visit: www.TRICARE.mil/COVIDVaccine