

## How does the COVID-19 vaccine work?

There are 2 types of COVID-19 vaccines for use in the U.S.



mRNA

Ex: Moderna, Pfizer



Viral Vector

Ex: Johnson & Johnson

### About mRNA Vaccines

- mRNA research began in the 1990s – that is why Moderna & Pfizer were able to develop an mRNA vaccine so quickly.
- Experts have been developing this technology for nearly two decades.
- 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. If you are exposed to the real virus later, your body will recognize it and know how to fight it off.
- All three vaccines have exceeded the threshold set by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and are each very effective in preventing severe COVID-19 disease and death.

