A Comparison of Three COVID-19 Vaccines

	AstraZeneca-Oxford	Moderna	Pfizer-BioNTech
Effectivity	Undetermined, estimated 70%, but could be 90% with lower initial dose	94%	95%
Cost/Dose*	\$4	\$10-\$50	\$20
Two doses required	30 days apart	28 days apart	21 days apart
Expected Side Effects	Fatigue, muscle and joint pain, headache, 1 reported case of transverse myelitis; not entirely known	Fatigue – 9.7% Muscle Pain – 8.9% Joint Pain – 5.2% Headache – 4.5% Symptoms can last a few days, especially after 2 nd dose	Fatigue – 3.8% Headache – 2.0% Chills, muscle pain, especially after the 2 nd dose
Any significant side effects?	Not yet available	Four cases of Bell's Palsy were reported in the clinical trials including 3 in the vaccine group, and 1 in the placebo group. This is not more than would be expected in the general population, however. A doctor in Boston with a history of shellfish allergies experienced an allergic reaction to the vaccine, but he recovered quickly after using his own EpiPen.	The CDC has identified 6 cases of anaphylaxis in people who received the vaccine. Four cases of Bell's Palsy, a type of temporary facial paralysis, were reported in people who received the vaccine, with no cases in the placebo group. This is not more than would be expected in the general population, however.
Reported cases of Guillain-Barre Syndrome (GBS)?	Not yet available	To date, no cases of GBS have been seen in people vaccinated for COVID-19. The CDC says a history of GBS is not a reason to avoid vaccination.	To date, no cases of GBS have been seen in people vaccinated for COVID-19. The CDC says a history of GBS is not a reason to avoid vaccination.
Method/Origin	Weakened chimpanzee cold adenovirus	Messenger RNA (mRNA), which makes the spike protein	Messenger RNA (mRNA), which makes the spike protein
Where is it made?	Baltimore, Maryland, USA	Norwood, Massachusetts, USA Portsmouth, New Hampshire, USA (Lonza)	Kalamazoo, Michigan, USA Puurs, BELGIUM
When approved by the FDA?	Not yet submitted. Approved in the UK on December 29, 2020	December 18, 2020	December 11, 2020
Storage temperature	2 to 8 deg C	-20 deg C for long term, one month at 2 to 8 deg C	-70 deg C for long term, 5 days at 2 to 8 deg C
How many doses made available?	3 billion planned for 2021	20 million, starting Dec. 21; 80 million for U.S. in 2021	50 million, starting Dec. 18; 1.3 billion in 2021
Who is it recommended for?	Not yet available	18 years and older	16 years and older
Positives/Negatives	(+) Safe for use in elderly patients, children, and those with pre-existing conditions	(-) Higher cost possibility, especially regarding 2-dose requirement	(-) Limitations regarding storage temperatures limit distribution availability

*Costs are estimated based on varying reports. Costs are still being negotiated, and early doses are reported to be free for first patients.