

THE JOHNSON & JOHNSON (JANSSEN) COVID-19 VACCINE

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The Johnson & Johnson/Janssen (J&J) vaccine is one of three COVID-19 vaccines available for adults in the U.S. It is normal to have more than one vaccine to fight the same virus.

All vaccines that are available are very good at protecting against serious illness, hospitalization and death from COVID-19. All are recommended by health experts.

Your body will be ready to protect you 2 weeks after just one dose of the J&J vaccine.



What it does

The J&J vaccine is a viral vector vaccine. It contains a harmless adenovirus (a common cold virus), which carries a gene from the spike protein of the coronavirus. This teaches your body how to recognize and fight the coronavirus that causes COVID-19, like the other authorized vaccines (Pfizer and Moderna).

What it doesn't do

- It doesn't give you COVID-19 or a cold.
- It does not change your DNA or genetic material.
- It does not cause infertility.

What's in the Johnson & Johnson COVID-19 vaccine?

The J&J vaccine contains a modified adenovirus with information from the coronavirus on it. It also contains ingredients that help keep the vaccine stable: salts, sugars and other organic compounds.

The vaccine **does not** contain eggs, preservatives, latex, pork or other animal products, fetal cells or the coronavirus.

The J&J vaccine is for adults 18 years and older

Talk with your doctor or clinic if you are pregnant or breastfeeding, have serious allergies, have a history of clotting or take blood thinners.

Side effects

Many people have mild side effects after getting the vaccine. This is a sign that your body is doing what it is supposed to do: building protection against the disease. Even if you don't have side effects, the vaccine is working to protect you.

- Common side effects include soreness or redness where you got the vaccine, a headache, tiredness and/or a low fever.
- These symptoms usually go away in a few days. If they don't, call your doctor or clinic.



Rare, but serious, problems

Allergic reaction

It is rare, but some people have had a severe allergic reaction to a COVID-19 vaccine. Everyone is asked to wait for a short time after vaccination to make sure there is no serious allergic reaction. This waiting time makes time for medical attention if necessary.

Blood clotting disorder

Federal and state health officials have recommended continuing the use of the Johnson & Johnson (J&J) vaccine after a 10-day pause in April, 2021. The pause was so medical experts could better understand the risk of a rare type of blood clot reported after a few people got this vaccine.

This serious condition is blood clots involving blood vessels in the brain, belly or legs along with low levels of platelets (a type of blood cell that helps your body stop bleeding). It is called thrombosis with thrombocytopenia syndrome, or TTS. This condition is very serious and can lead to death, but can also be successfully treated. Treatment is different than for other blood clots.

TTS is very rare. Experts estimate about 7 in 1 million vaccinated women between 18 and 49 years old may experience this. For women 50 years and older and men of all ages, this serious complication is even more rare, though it has happened.

Medical experts who studied TTS in patients who received the Johnson & Johnson vaccine decided that for most people the benefits of getting the Johnson & Johnson vaccine outweigh the risks. The risk of getting a clot or dying from COVID-19 disease is much greater than the risk of getting a clot and dying from the vaccine.

Watch for these more serious symptoms for three weeks after getting the vaccine:

- a severe headache or a headache that won't go away
- blurred vision
- chest or severe belly pain
- leg swelling or pain
- trouble breathing
- easy bruising or tiny blood spots under your skin outside of where you got your shot

If you develop any of these symptoms, call 911 or go to an emergency room. It is important to tell them that you had the Johnson & Johnson vaccine so they can take care of you in the right way.

Staying safer

COVID-19 is still spreading in our communities and no vaccine is 100% effective. Even after you get vaccinated, continue to wash your hands, wear a mask in public, watch your distance and keep your gatherings small and brief or with others who have been vaccinated.



Search COVID-19 on your county website to get local information.

