

# UNDERSTANDING THE FACT SHEET: THE JOHNSON & JOHNSON (JANSSEN) COVID-19 VACCINE

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The Johnson & Johnson/Janssen (J&J) is one of three COVID-19 vaccines available for adults in the U.S. The J&J vaccine needs only one dose and offers protection starting 2 weeks after getting the vaccine. Studies show the vaccine to be very good at preventing severe COVID-19 (85% effective).

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

- **Do not** give you COVID-19 or an adenovirus.
- **Do not** change your DNA or genetic material.
- **Do not** cause infertility.
- **Do 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.

### Mild 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



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.



#### Blood clotting disorder

Very rarely, blood clots involving blood vessels in the brain, belly or legs along with low levels of platelets (blood cells that help your body stop bleeding), have happened in some people who have taken the Johnson & Johnson/Janssen COVID-19 vaccine.



This 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 other blood clots.

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.**

Blood clotting is very rare and happens in only a few out of a million people who take the vaccine. It is most likely in women ages 18 - 50 and from 6 days to 3 weeks after getting the shot. While there is a small risk from getting the vaccine, the risk of getting COVID-19 is higher for most people.

## Get support

It is important to feel good about your medical choices. If you have concerns about taking the J&J vaccine after reading this information, you can get more information or get a different vaccine.

- If you have questions, ask to talk to someone at the vaccine event.
- **Other vaccine brands are available, but may not be available at today's event.** For help finding a different vaccine brand, ask the people organizing today's vaccine event, go online to <https://covidvaccine.oregon.gov/> or call 2-1-1.



More information about the Johnson & Johnson vaccine can be found in the full Fact Sheet from the FDA which is available for you to read and take home today.

Hold your smartphone's camera over this QR code to go directly to the info.

