COVID-19 VACCINE
Johnson & Johnson* FAQs

*Janssen is the pharmaceutical branch of Johnson and Johnson. You may hear these names being used interchangeably when referring to the vaccine.

HOW DOES THE JOHNSON AND JOHNSON (J&J) VACCINE WORK?
The Johnson & Johnson vaccine is a viral vector vaccine. It is made from an inactivated adenovirus, the virus that causes the common cold, and contains a piece of DNA that instructs the body to make the SARS-CoV-2 (COVID-19) spike protein. It triggers an immune system response, giving you protection if you were to be exposed to COVID-19 in the future.

All current COVID-19 vaccines essentially teach our cells how to make a protein that prompts an immune response without using the live virus that causes COVID-19.

IS IT SAFE?
All current COVID-19 vaccines have met FDA’s rigorous scientific standards for safety, effectiveness, and manufacturing quality needed to support emergency use authorization.

For the J&J vaccine, the adenovirus can’t replicate in human cells or cause disease, and the SARS-CoV-2 spike protein can’t cause COVID-19 without the rest of the coronavirus. This approach was also used to make the Ebola vaccine.

WHAT ARE THE SIDE EFFECTS?
Reported side effects include: pain, redness of the skin and swelling at the injection site. Other side effects include: headache, feeling very tired, muscle aches, nausea, and fever. As with all vaccines, there’s a rare chance that it could cause a severe allergic reaction.

WHO SHOULD NOT GET THE J&J VACCINE?
You should not get the J&J vaccine if you had a severe allergic reaction to any ingredient of this vaccine. The J&J vaccine contains the following ingredients: recombinant, replication-incompetent adenovirus type 26 expressing the SARS-CoV-2 spike protein, citric acid monohydrate, trisodium citrate dihydrate, ethanol, 2-hydroxypropyl-β-cyclodextrin (HBCD), polysorbate-80, sodium chloride.

SHOULD I STILL GET THE J&J VACCINE IF I’VE READ IT’S “LESS EFFECTIVE” THAN THE OTHER VACCINES CURRENTLY AVAILABLE?
Yes! The J&J vaccine trials were conducted under different conditions than the other vaccines currently available (Pfizer and Moderna). While the Moderna and Pfizer vaccines are reported to be approximately 95% effective at preventing illness from COVID-19, their trials were completed over the summer and fall of 2020, before newer more contagious variants were circulating widely.
In the U.S., the J&J vaccine was 72% effective at preventing COVID-19 and 86% effective at preventing severe cases of the disease [FDA]. For comparison, a flu vaccine is usually 40-60% effective! While there is still a chance a vaccinated person could get sick, this suggests they would be much less likely to need hospitalization or to die from COVID-19.

KEY TAKEAWAYS
- All three vaccines are safe and highly effective--they’re all **100 percent effective** in preventing hospitalization and death from COVID-19.
- You should not wait until you have your choice of vaccine--take what’s offered to you. Supply is currently limited and will continue to be for the time being. The Johnson & Johnson vaccine is nearly as good as the mRNA-based vaccines at preventing **serious disease, and that’s what really matters.**
- Stopping the spread of COVID-19 also limits the development of new COVID-19 variants.
- Getting vaccinated when it’s offered, protects you and gives you some level of immunity. The **more individuals that get vaccinated, the closer we get to herd immunity**--bringing us closer to ending the pandemic.

### DIFFERENCES BETWEEN CURRENT AVAILABLE VACCINES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Johnson and Johnson</th>
<th>Moderna</th>
<th>Pfizer</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Material</td>
<td>Adenovirus vector</td>
<td>mRNA vaccine</td>
<td>mRNA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dose(s) Required</td>
<td>Single Dose</td>
<td>2 Shots (28 days apart)</td>
<td>2 shots (21 days apart)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Minimum Age</td>
<td>18 years old</td>
<td>18 years old</td>
<td>16 years old</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Effectiveness preventing moderate to severe cases of COVID-19 in U.S.:</td>
<td>72%</td>
<td>95%</td>
<td>95%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Preventing hospitalization and death</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

† With the J&J vaccine, protection against moderate to severe disease starts about two weeks after people get vaccinated. By four weeks after the shot, data from the clinical trial showed there were no hospitalizations or deaths. Recent studies show a good level of protection with the first dose of the Moderna and Pfizer vaccines, but participants do not get full protection until about two weeks after the second dose -- five to six weeks after the first dose.


For additional information regarding the COVID-19 vaccines, visit: [https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus)