

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

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.

Due to the rare risk of blood clots, the Pfizer and Moderna vaccines are now preferred over the J&J vaccine.

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. For some people, this is a sign that your body is 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 at least fifteen minutes after vaccination to make sure there is no serious allergic reaction.



Guillain-Barré Syndrome

Guillain-Barré syndrome (GBS) is a medical condition that affects the nervous system. Some people have gotten GBS in the 6 weeks after the J&J vaccine, but it is very rare.

You should seek medical attention right away if you get any of the following symptoms after receiving the J&J vaccine:

- Weakness or tingling sensations, especially in the legs or arms
- Difficulty walking
- Difficulty with facial movements, including speaking, chewing, or swallowing
- Double vision or inability to move eyes
- Difficulty with bladder control or bowel function

To be extra safe, Multnomah County Health Department is not offering this vaccine to people who have been treated for a blood clot in the last six months. If you have been treated for a blood clot during this time, tell your vaccinator. We can help you find a different COVID-19 vaccine.



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 J&J COVID-19 vaccine.

This is called thrombosis with thrombocytopenia syndrome, or TTS. This condition is very serious and can lead to death. It is treated differently 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.

The problem 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.

Scan the QR code with your phone's camera to see more detailed information about the vaccine. You can ask the staff for a paper copy or you can ask staff / your family / friend for help with the QR code.

VISIT [MULTCO.US/COVID19](https://multco.us/covid19) FOR THE LATEST UPDATES

