

## **Janssen/Johnson & Johnson COVID-19 Vaccine Talking Points and FAQs**

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### **Talking Points**

- The Johnson & Johnson vaccine is the third vaccine to receive emergency use authorization from the Federal Drug Administration. All three approved COVID-19 vaccines have been demonstrated to be safe and highly effective against serious illness, hospitalization and death. The best vaccine is the one you can get access to. Residents are urged to take whatever shot they can, as soon as it's available.
- This vaccine was developed in collaboration with Dan Barouch, MD, PhD, Director of the Center for Virology and Vaccine Research at Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center, whose lab has also worked on vaccines for Ebola, among other viruses.
- After vaccination, people will need to continue to wear masks, wash their hands frequently and maintain physical distancing.

### **FAQs**

**Q: How effective is the Johnson & Johnson vaccine?**

**A:** It's highly effective at preventing severe disease, hospitalization and death from COVID-19. Clinical trials showed it is 100 percent effective at preventing hospitalization and death after 28 days, and 85 percent effective against preventing severe illness. Overall, the vaccine is 66 percent effective at preventing symptomatic disease. By comparison, flu vaccines are typically between 40 to 60 percent effective.

The vaccine was tested against a number of new COVID-19 variants across the world - in South America and in South Africa and has proven to be effective at preventing illness from these new strains.

A small study that was part of the trial links the vaccine to a 74 percent lower likelihood of asymptomatic transmission (over 71 days).

**Q: What are the side effects of the Johnson & Johnson vaccine?**

**A:** Vaccine recipients have reported mostly mild reactions after the shot, including a sore arm and a fever in less than 10 percent of participants. The other common side effects were muscle pain and a headache.

**Q: How is the Johnson & Johnson vaccine different than the Moderna and Pfizer vaccines?**

A: The Moderna and Pfizer vaccines use mRNA technology, while the Johnson & Johnson vaccine is a COVID-19 viral vector vaccine. It uses a modified, harmless version of a common type of virus, called an adenovirus, to deliver immunity instructions to cells in the body. It works to teach your own immune cells to recognize and attack COVID-19 to prevent infection.

Adenoviruses have been in use for years during other viral outbreaks throughout the world, including the Ebola and Zika virus.

The Johnson & Johnson vaccine is effective after only one dose.

The Johnson & Johnson vaccine doesn't need to be stored at extremely cold temperatures. The vaccine could be stored for months at normal refrigeration temperatures, making it much easier to use and distribute.