

Janssen COVID-19 Vaccine (Johnson & Johnson) Frequently Asked Questions

1. What is the Janssen COVID-19 Vaccine (Johnson & Johnson)?

- It is a shot given in the muscle of the upper arm.
- It is a **single dose** (only one dose needed) vaccine to prevent COVID-19 in individuals 18 years of age and older.
- It is a viral vector vaccine which means it uses a modified version of a different virus as a vector to deliver instructions, in the form of genetic material (a gene), to a cell.
- The genetic material delivered by the viral vector does not go into a person's DNA. It does **not** alter your DNA.
- The vaccine does not cause infection with either COVID-19 or the virus that is used as the vector.

2. When will the Johnson & Johnson (J & J) vaccine be available?

As of March 5, 2021, the company had about 4 million doses available nationally, but there are plans to scale up production in the coming weeks. Yuba-Sutter is being allocated 1500 doses of the J&J vaccine and likely they will arrive sometime next week. We will initially offer this to mobile, transient populations such as migrant farm workers since it is very hard to capture this population a second time. We are hopeful that more supplies will be coming starting in early April so that more of the eligible population can consider the Janssen vaccine as an option.

3. Who can get the Johnson & Johnson vaccine?

Janssen COVID-19 Vaccine is authorized and recommended for persons 18 years of age and older.

4. Who should not get the Janssen COVID-19 vaccine?

- Those who are under 18 years of age
- Those who had a severe allergic reaction to any ingredient of this vaccine. The Janssen COVID-19 Vaccine includes 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.

5. Was the Johnson & Johnson (Janssen Pharmaceuticals) COVID-19 vaccine developed using fetal cell lines?

In various stages of vaccine development and manufacturing, some of the COVID-19 vaccines used cells originally isolated from fetal tissue (often referred to as fetal cells). Historical fetal cell lines were derived in the 1960's and 1970's from two elective abortions that have been used to create vaccines for diseases. The J & J did require the use of fetal cell cultures in order to produce and manufacture the vaccine. **A note from the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith (CDF), which was approved by Pope Francis, gives the green light during the pandemic to the use of vaccines produced with cell lines derived from two fetuses aborted in the 1960s and stated that receiving a COVID-19 vaccine that required fetal cell lines for production or manufacture is morally acceptable.** The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops goes further and has stated: "receiving a COVID-19 vaccine ought to be understood as an act of charity toward the other members of our community. In this way, being vaccinated safely against COVID-19 should be considered an act of love of our neighbor and part of our moral responsibility for the common good...Given the urgency of this crisis, the lack of available alternative vaccines, and the fact that the connection between an abortion that occurred decades

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ago and receiving a vaccine produced today is remote, inoculation with the new COVID-19 vaccines in these circumstances can be morally justified”.

6. How will the J&J vaccine be rolled out in our communities?

This single-dose vaccine may be desirable for people who want to complete their immunization schedule quickly, do not want to return for a second dose or have difficulty returning for a second dose. Priority for this vaccine may be to individuals who are homeless/unhoused, jail inmates, and migrant farm workers.

7. How effective is the Johnson & Johnson vaccine?

What you can see from the clinical trial data is that all the vaccines, including Johnson and Johnson, are really effective at preventing severe COVID illness, preventing hospitalizations from severe COVID, and really, really effective at preventing death from COVID-19 disease.

8. Does the Johnson & Johnson vaccine have side effects?

The FDA reports that side effects include injection site pain, headache, fatigue, muscle aches, nausea, fever, injection site redness and injection site swelling. These side effects usually start within a day or two of getting the vaccine. Side effects might affect your ability to do daily activities, but they should go away in a few days.

9. Where can I find credible vaccine information?

Before considering vaccine information on the Internet, check that the information comes from a credible source and is updated on a regular basis. For example, the Centers for Disease and Control Prevention (CDC) ’s vaccines and immunization web content is researched, written and approved by subject matter experts, including physicians, researchers, epidemiologists, and analysts. Content is based on peer-reviewed science.

10. Can I stop wearing a mask once I am vaccinated?

No! It is important to continue to take precautions like washing hands, wearing masks and practicing physical distancing in public, even after you have had any of the COVID-19 vaccines. This is because we don’t know how well the vaccine stops the actual virus from being spread. Getting the vaccine stops the disease from making you feel sick, but you might still be able to spread it to others.

- It takes up to 2 weeks after the last dose to get the best protection.

Stopping this pandemic is going to take all our tools.