



COVID-19 JANSSEN VACCINE FACT SHEET

- February 28, 2021, a committee of independent advisers to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention voted to recommend distribution of the Janssen COVID-19 vaccine to all adults (18+) in the United States. The FDA approved an Emergency Use Authorization (EAU).
- This vaccine gives the U.S. and Nevada another desperately needed tool at a critical time in the COVID-19 pandemic.
- The Janssen vaccine is the third COVID-19 vaccine to be authorized for Americans in less than a year.
- All three currently authorized vaccines (Pfizer, Moderna and Janssen) provide protection against hospitalization and death.
- The Janssen COVID-19 vaccine requires just one shot and is fridge stable, which means it can be shipped and stored in a standard refrigerator for up to three months.
- Because it doesn't require ultra cold storage, this vaccine can be stored and administered easily almost anywhere — in doctors' offices, pharmacies, mass vaccination sites, public health clinics, mobile/pop-up clinics, and other places that do not have special freezer capacity.
- This vaccine is easy to use, ship and store, and is designed to be administered as a single dose. That means no follow-up visits, none of the hassle to make sure people return for those second shots, and none of the worry about making sure a second dose is available at the right place and at the right time.
- Due to the simpler storage and handling and the one-dose regimen, this vaccine will be a useful tool in protecting the homebound, transient populations, those experiencing homelessness, and other hard-to-reach populations.
- The Janssen COVID-19 vaccine did not cause any serious side effects during clinical trials, with the most commonly reported side effects being pain at the injection site, headache, fatigue, muscle aches and nausea. Most of these side effects were mild to moderate in severity and lasted 1-2 days.

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- In clinical trials, the Janssen vaccine prevented hospitalization and death from COVID, including for the South African disease variant. It was 85% effective at protecting against severe cases of illness and 100% effective in preventing hospitalization and death.
- Experts say head-to-head comparisons among the three vaccines now available cannot be made, because the trials were conducted at different times during the pandemic and in different countries dealing with different variants and transmission rates. Pfizer and Moderna's vaccines, for example, were tested before the emergence of troubling new variants in Britain, South Africa, and Brazil.
- The demand for vaccines currently outpaces the supply, and another approved vaccine means more people will be able to get vaccinated sooner.

- Please note that individuals may not be offered a choice of vaccine, because supplies are too scarce. According to health experts, the vaccine available at the place where you are being vaccinated is the one you should get.
- The nation's leading medical experts are urging people to take whichever coronavirus vaccine is available to them. "You now have three highly efficacious vaccines, for sure, there's no doubt about that," Anthony S. Fauci, the nation's top infectious-disease expert and the White House chief medical advisor, said the day after the Food and Drug Administration authorized the Janssen vaccine.
- The Janssen COVID-19 vaccine does not use mRNA. Instead, it's what's known as an adenovirus vector vaccine. It uses the more established approach of employing a harmless, inactive virus to deliver a gene that carries the blueprint for the spike protein found on the surface of the coronavirus. The virus enters cells, which then follow the genetic instructions to construct a replica of the coronavirus spike protein. The immune system uses these replicas to recognize — and respond to — the real coronavirus.
- Current CDC guidance states that the Pfizer and Moderna vaccines "are not interchangeable with each other or with other COVID-19 vaccine products." So according to current recommendations, you shouldn't get more than one type of coronavirus vaccine, and you shouldn't mix the two-dose vaccines. But according to the CDC: "Recommendations may be updated when further information becomes available."
- Discussion is ongoing about how the Janssen vaccine might best be deployed among different population groups.
- Health professionals have noted that the Janssen vaccine could be particularly well suited to remote areas and clinics, as well as drive-through mass vaccination sites.
- With the Janssen COVID-19 vaccine, protection against moderate to severe disease starts about two weeks after vaccination. By four weeks after the shot, data from the clinical trial showed there were no hospitalizations or deaths.
- The Janssen vaccine was tested in 44,000 people in the U.S., South Africa and Latin America. Among global participants in the testing, 59% are White/Caucasian; 45% are Hispanic and/or Latinx; 19% are Black/African American; 9% are Indigenous and 3% are Asian. In the United States, 74% are White/Caucasian; 15% are Hispanic and/or Latinx; 13% are Black/African American; 6% are Asian and 1% are Indigenous. These numbers reflect some people identifying as members of more than one group.
- 41% of participants in the study had other conditions associated with an increased risk for progression to severe COVID-19: obesity (28.5%), type 2 diabetes (7.3%), hypertension (10.3%), HIV (2.8%); other immunocompromised participants were also included in the study.
- None of the three approved vaccines contains additives that can sometimes cause strong reactions, such as antibiotics, preservatives or adjuvants (compounds used to boost the immune response to a vaccine).
- Only one case of anaphylaxis was reported in the 44,000 people who were administered the Janssen COVID-19 vaccine.

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