



The Johnson & Johnson COVID-19 Vaccine Pause: What You Need to Know

The Johnson & Johnson COVID-19 vaccine is recommended for people aged 18 years and older. You only need to get one dose of the Johnson & Johnson vaccine to be protected against COVID-19.

About the pause

Use of the Johnson & Johnson vaccine was paused to learn how to recognize and treat an issue with blood clotting. During the pause, medical experts reviewed vaccine data and found that the benefits of this vaccine outweigh the very small risk. The blood clotting issue is treatable, but doctors must know how to recognize it, how to report it, and how to treat it.

Getting vaccinated with Johnson & Johnson vaccine

- It is important that women, especially those under 50 years old, are aware of possible symptoms of the blood clotting issue. For three weeks after your vaccination, look out for:



- Shortness of breath

- Chest pain



- Leg swelling

- Abdominal/stomach pain that does not go away



- Severe headaches or headaches that do not go away



- Blurred vision



- Easy bruising or tiny blood spots under the skin beyond the site of the injection

- If you develop these symptoms, go to the emergency room or urgent care. Tell the health care provider that you recently received the Johnson & Johnson vaccine.
- These symptoms take longer to show up and are more severe than normal side effects, which happen one to two days after vaccination and last just a few days.

If you got the Johnson & Johnson vaccine more than a month ago, you are unlikely to develop this condition.

Every community can access all COVID-19 vaccines

All Minnesotans have a choice in which vaccine they want to receive.

All communities have access to all three vaccines at many different vaccination sites. You can always look online or call and ask which brand of vaccine is offered at a vaccination clinic.

Risks and benefits

The benefits of the Johnson & Johnson vaccine outweigh the very small risk.



Risk: Women who are younger than 50 years old should be aware of the slightly increased risk of the blood clotting issue. This risk is very rare for women 50 years and older and men of all ages.



Benefits: The Johnson & Johnson vaccine is very good at preventing severe disease, hospitalizations, and death from COVID-19. Only one dose is needed for full protection. It is an important tool to help end the COVID-19 pandemic.

Vaccine safety

COVID-19 vaccines, including Johnson & Johnson, were developed faster because of extra funding and resources, and prior research. It is important to know that steps to check for safety were not skipped. Having safe COVID-19 vaccines that work is the top priority. Medical researchers had to prove that vaccine study data showed the vaccines are safe and work before they were approved for use.

- Health officials use several different systems to monitor all the COVID-19 vaccines for safety after they are authorized by the Food and Drug Administration.
- These systems can identify if there are side effects that are so rare they were not found during clinical trials.
- Experts review and address any safety concerns right away.

We recommend people get vaccinated when they have the opportunity. Experts agree that all COVID-19 vaccines help prevent COVID-19 disease, especially severe illness and death.



Questions?

One of the best things to do with vaccine questions is to talk to your primary care doctor or other health care provider. They can share information and help you put that information into the context of your own life and circumstances. If the Johnson & Johnson vaccine is not right for you, other COVID-19 vaccine options are available for which the risk of blood clotting has not been seen.



mn.gov/vaccine

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