

Can I get a Johnson & Johnson vaccine?



What is the current status of the Johnson & Johnson COVID-19 vaccine?

On April 23, a CDC panel recommended that the pause in the use of the Johnson & Johnson vaccine be lifted. The panel also recommended that a warning label be added to the vaccine packaging noting the very rare blood clotting disorder risk. Based on the panel's recommendation, the FDA ended the pause; states and local jurisdictions can now resume use of the J&J vaccine.

The CDC and FDA will provide monitoring and treatment information to health care providers and vaccine recipients.

Should I be concerned about the safety of other vaccines?

The identification of what is approximately a less than 2-in-a-million risk associated with the Johnson & Johnson vaccine is a sign that the nation's safety monitoring system for COVID vaccines is working. After any vaccine is successful in clinical trials and approved for use, the FDA continues to monitor it for safety. The pause in the use of the J&J vaccine allowed scientists to evaluate each incidence of the clotting disorder. They determined that the level of risk was very low and that the benefits of continued use of the J&J vaccine greatly outweighed any risk associated with it.

What was learned during the Johnson & Johnson vaccine pause?

The 10-day pause gave health officials time to review additional data to better understand the degree of risk associated with the Johnson & Johnson vaccine related to a blood clotting disorder. It also gave federal agencies and the medical community time to determine and share information on the most appropriate treatment response. During that time, nine additional cases of the clotting disorder were identified, bringing the total number of known cases to 15 (among the nearly 7 million people who received the vaccine).

The decision to lift the pause is based on the experts' determination that the benefits of again administering the vaccine greatly outweigh the very small degree of risk associated with its use, particularly now that the risk and treatment protocols are better understood. The risk of blood clotting is much higher for people who contract COVID than it is for people who receive the J&J vaccine.

Who is at risk for the blood clotting disorder associated with the Johnson & Johnson vaccine?

The likelihood of the blood clotting disorder resulting from the Johnson & Johnson vaccine is extremely rare. The risk varies by age and gender. There have been fewer than 1 case per million for men and for women who are 50 years or older; the risk is estimated to be about 7 cases per million for women age 18 to 49. If you questions about the J&J vaccine or other vaccines, talk to your doctor.



If I got the Johnson & Johnson shot, am I at risk?

If you received the Johnson & Johnson shot and have not developed any of the side effects associated with the blood clotting disorder (severe headache or abdominal pain, shortness of breath, neurological symptoms, leg swelling) within three weeks of being vaccinated, the risk of an adverse reaction is unlikely. If you have questions or concerns, consult your doctor.

If I'm offered the Johnson & Johnson vaccine, should I wait until I can get either Pfizer or Moderna?

For most people, getting the first available COVID vaccine is the best thing you can do to safeguard your health. Your odds of contracting a possibly life-threatening case of COVID-19 are much higher than your odds of serious side effects from the vaccine. The risk of blood clots from COVID illness is 165,000 per million cases.

More than 90% of the vaccine supply in the United States is either the Pfizer or Moderna vaccine. However, for some settings the Johnson & Johnson vaccine may be the one that is available. And some people prefer the option of a single-dose vaccine.

If you have additional questions about which vaccine is best for you, check with your doctor.

What will happen next with the Johnson & Johnson vaccine?

Large quantities of the Johnson & Johnson vaccine are ready for distribution to vaccination sites. Depending on circumstances within individual jurisdictions, the J&J vaccine could again be available for administration with a number of days.

Because the J&J vaccine is a one-dose vaccine and can be transported and stored under routine refrigeration, its use will increase vaccine access for hard-to-reach populations.

Remember:

- **The vaccine is free!**
- Side effects are normal. They are a good sign the vaccine is working and building up your immune system.
- Make sure you know your [next steps](#) after vaccination.
- If you are getting a two-dose vaccine, like Pfizer or Moderna, mark your calendar right away so you know when to go back to get your second dose.

