

# Johnson & Johnson COVID-19 Vaccine

## *Know the Facts!*



### Here are some key **FACTS** about the *Johnson & Johnson* vaccine to keep you informed!

It may be overwhelming to digest all the information about the COVID-19 vaccines. Knowing what is true about vaccines is crucial to our community and business recovery.

#### **Should I get Johnson & Johnson's vaccine over the other vaccines?**

All three vaccines can be used for those who are eligible. Johnson & Johnson is a single-dose vaccine so it might be a better option if you have difficulty taking time off work. It also may offer more protection faster. The Pfizer and Moderna vaccines require two doses, three and four weeks apart.

#### **How is the Johnson & Johnson vaccine different from the first two, Pfizer and Moderna?**

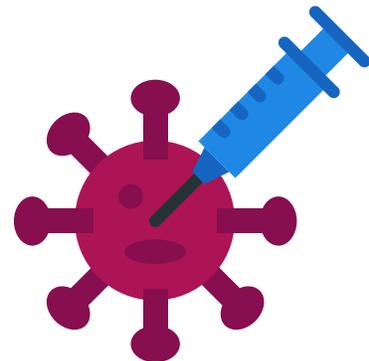
Pfizer and Moderna vaccines use messenger RNA technology to train the immune system to respond to the coronavirus. They require two doses, given weeks apart. The Johnson & Johnson vaccine does not use mRNA — it's what's known as an adenovirus vector vaccine. It uses a more established vaccine approach. A harmless cold virus delivers a gene that carries the blueprint for the spiky protein found on the surface of the coronavirus. The virus enters cells and follows the genetic instructions to construct a replica of the coronavirus spike. The immune system uses these replicas to recognize — and respond to — the real virus.

#### **How effective is the Johnson & Johnson vaccine?**

All three vaccines are highly efficacious and safe. In clinical trials, the vaccine completely prevented hospitalization and death. It was 85% effective at protecting against severe cases of illness and 72% effective at preventing moderate illness in the U.S. trials. Pfizer and Moderna vaccines are about 95% effective after both doses. However, head-to-head comparisons of the vaccines cannot be made. The trials were conducted at different times during the pandemic and in different countries. The countries had different variants and transmission rates.

#### **How long will protection last when I get the Johnson & Johnson vaccine?**

Much like with the Pfizer and Moderna vaccines, it is not clear yet how long immunity from Johnson & Johnson's vaccine will last. Scientists are researching this. They say it's possible people might need annual shots (like the flu vaccine), especially as more variants emerge and become dominant.





## How long does it take for the vaccine to kick in?

The CDC estimates all vaccines will take “a few weeks” to kick in. Different people will reach peak immunity at different times. Johnson & Johnson recently reported:

- After 15 days, a T-cell response was detected in 76-83% of the trial participants ages 18 to 55 and in 60-67% of participants over 65.
- By day 29, 90% of the participants had coronavirus-neutralizing antibodies in their blood, regardless of age.

This is a faster average timeline than the Pfizer and Moderna vaccines. They both take five and six weeks, respectively, to reach peak immunity after the first dose.



## I am concerned that the Johnson & Johnson vaccine was developed with fetal cell lines and therefore is against my moral beliefs.

The COVID-19 vaccines do not contain any aborted fetal cells. Pfizer and Moderna used fetal cell lines to perform confirmation tests (to make sure the vaccines work). And Johnson & Johnson uses fetal cell lines in vaccine development, confirmation and production. But it's important to have the full context: fetal cell lines are not the same as fetal tissue. Fetal cell lines are cells that grow in a laboratory. They descend from cells taken from elective abortions in the 1970s and 1980s, which have multiplied into many new cells over the past four or five decades, creating fetal cell lines. Current fetal cell lines are thousands of generations removed from the original fetal tissue.



## Can I get more than one vaccine?

No, you shouldn't get more than one type of coronavirus vaccine, and you shouldn't mix the two-dose vaccines. Current CDC guidance says COVID-19 vaccines “are not interchangeable with each other or with other COVID-19 vaccine products.”



## Once I receive the COVID-19 vaccine, should I still wear a mask?

Yes. Masking, handwashing and physical distancing remain necessary until a sufficient number of people are immune. The best protection we can offer each other right now is to continue to follow current guidelines.



## Can I choose which vaccine to get?

At the moment, no.

