

# Finish Strong, Nebraska!



## Help Stop the Pandemic by Getting Vaccinated!

COVID-19 vaccination is an important tool to help us all get back to normal. Studies show that COVID-19 vaccines are effective at keeping you from getting COVID-19. Experts also think that getting a COVID-19 vaccine may help keep you from getting seriously ill even if you do get COVID-19.

COVID-19 vaccines teach our immune systems how to recognize and fight the virus that causes COVID-19. It typically takes a few weeks after vaccination for the body to build protection (immunity) against the virus that causes COVID-19. That means it is possible a person could still get COVID-19 just after vaccination. This is because the vaccine has not had enough time to provide protection.

There are steps you can take to protect yourself until you can get vaccinated. Even after you get vaccinated it's important to continue using all the tools available to help stop this pandemic as we learn more about how COVID-19 vaccines work in real-world conditions. Even after vaccination, take steps to protect yourself and others by staying six feet away from people who don't live in your household, wearing a mask outside the home, washing hands often, avoiding crowds and avoiding poorly ventilated spaces.

## Frequently Asked Questions – Johnson & Johnson AKA Janssen COVID Vaccine

### **Q: What is the effectiveness of the Johnson & Johnson/Janssen, Pfizer and Moderna vaccines?**

A: Each of these three authorized COVID-19 vaccines had 100% efficacy against COVID-19-related hospitalizations and deaths. In phase three clinical trials, the Pfizer vaccine had 95% efficacy and the Moderna vaccine had 94% efficacy in preventing any severity of COVID-19. Both Pfizer and Moderna require two doses. A phase three clinical trial showed the Johnson & Johnson vaccine had 66% efficacy at preventing any severity of COVID-19 (while being studied in regions with new variant strains of COVID-19), and only requires one dose. Comparatively, the flu vaccine is generally 40 to 60% effective. Each of these three authorized COVID-19 vaccines had 100% efficacy against COVID-19-related hospitalizations and deaths. Since each of these COVID-19 vaccines work extremely well against the virus, individuals should feel confident they are reducing their risk when they choose to vaccinate. Moreover, every person who gets vaccinated is doing their part to help reduce spread and put an end to this global pandemic.

**Q: Is it possible to make comparisons about the effectiveness among the three vaccines that the FDA has authorized for emergency use to date?**

A: No. The only way to accurately compare the effectiveness of medical products, such as vaccines or drugs, is by direct comparison in head-to-head clinical trials, which did not occur for these vaccines. Furthermore, the clinical trials for these vaccines occurred in different geographic regions and at different points in time with varying incidence of COVID-19. All of the COVID-19 vaccines that the FDA has authorized for emergency use are at least 50% more effective than placebo in preventing COVID-19. A vaccine with at least 50% efficacy would have a significant impact on disease.

**Q: Did clinical trial participation include members of racial or ethnic at greater risk from COVID-19?**

A: Yes. Overall, 45.3% of participants in the clinical trials identify as Hispanic/Latino, 19.4% Black or African American, 9.5% American Indian or Alaska Native, 3.3% Asian, 0.2% Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander, and 5.6% Multiracial.

**Q: Does the J&J vaccine use the same technology as the Pfizer and Moderna vaccines?**

A: No. The Pfizer and Moderna vaccines use mRNA. The J&J vaccine uses what is called an adenovirus vector vaccine. Vaccines of this type have been well-studied in clinical trials, and viral vector vaccines have been used to respond to recent Ebola outbreaks.

Viral vector vaccines use 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 vaccine does not cause infection with either COVID-19 or the virus that is used as the vector. The genetic material delivered by the viral vector does not integrate into a person's DNA.

**Q: What information is known about allergic reactions to the J&J vaccine?**

A: In the study that evaluated safety in 43,783 participants (21,895 of whom received the vaccine and 21,888 of whom received saline placebo), hives was reported in five vaccine recipients and 1 placebo recipient in the 7 days following vaccination. In this study, there has been one report of severe hypersensitivity reaction, not

classified as anaphylaxis, beginning two days following vaccination with Janssen COVID-19 Vaccine. The event was serious and likely related to vaccination.

In another ongoing clinical study in South Africa, one case of anaphylaxis has been reported following administration of the vaccine.

**Q: Can people who have had COVID-19 receive the J&J vaccine?**

A: While relatively few confirmed COVID-19 cases occurred overall among participants with evidence of infection prior to vaccination, limited data suggest that previously infected individuals can be at risk of COVID-19 (i.e., reinfection) and may benefit from vaccination. Furthermore, available data suggest that the safety profile of the vaccine in previously infected individuals is just as favorable as in previously uninfected individuals.

**Q: Can the vaccine be given to individuals with co-morbidities and those over the age of 60?**

A: Yes. The FDA has determined that the totality of the available data provides clear evidence that Janssen COVID-19 Vaccine may be effective in preventing COVID-19. The data also show that the known and potential benefits outweigh the known and potential risks of the vaccine. Among these participants in the vaccine group of the clinical trial, there were no COVID-19-related deaths and no COVID-19 cases requiring medical intervention occurring 28 days or more after vaccination.

**Q: Should I get a particular brand of vaccine?**

A: Everyone should take any vaccine available to them. All offer significant protection against being hospitalized or dying of COVID-19.

**Q: Where does the Catholic Church stand on the ethical concerns that some may have with the vaccine?**

A: The [U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' \(USCCB\) Committee on Doctrine](#) has shared its views on the use of all COVID-19 vaccines. Additionally, the [Lincoln Diocese](#) has issued a statement.

Source: <https://www.vaticannews.va/en/vatican-city/news/2020-12/vatican-cdf-note-covid-vaccine-morality-abortion.html>

Information provided by Vatican News and DHHS