



COVID-19 VACCINE INFORMATION

Janssen COVID-19 vaccine for individuals aged 18 and older

? How does Janssen COVID-19 vaccine protect against COVID-19?

Janssen COVID-19 vaccine uses a virus that cannot reproduce to carry instructions into the body's cells so that they temporarily display proteins like those found on the SARS-CoV-2 (COVID-19) virus. These proteins trigger an immune response that helps the body build protection against COVID-19. Janssen COVID-19 vaccine offers short term protection against COVID-19 infection and longer lasting protection against severe COVID-19 disease.

It takes approximately 14 days after receiving the vaccine for your immune system to respond; slightly longer if you are older or immunocompromised.

? Who can receive the Janssen COVID-19 vaccine?

Only people aged 18 years and older who have contraindications to all other COVID-19 vaccines should receive the Janssen COVID-19 vaccine.

? Is the Janssen COVID-19 vaccine safe?

The Janssen COVID-19 vaccine is considered safe compared to the risks of COVID-19 disease. However, mRNA vaccines are preferred over Janssen COVID-19 vaccine because they have a better safety profile. There is little or no information on the safety of Janssen COVID-19 vaccine when given to people who are pregnant or breastfeeding, or in people who have autoimmune or immunocompromising conditions.

? What are the side effects of the Janssen COVID-19 vaccines?

Common side effects of the Janssen COVID-19 vaccine include:

- Pain, swelling, or redness where the needle was given
- Tiredness
- Headache
- Muscle or joint pain
- Fever or chills
- Nausea or vomiting

Other side effects of the Janssen COVID-19 vaccine are uncommon, rare, or very rare. They may include:

- Swelling of the lymph nodes
- Severe allergic reaction
- Venous thromboembolism – blockage of deep veins or blood vessels in the lungs caused by a blood clot
- Guillain-Barré syndrome – a condition in which the immune system attacks the nerves causing numbness, muscle weakness and/or paralysis
- Thrombosis with thrombocytopenia – serious blood clots along with a shortage of platelets needed for normal blood clotting
- Capillary leak syndrome – a serious condition that causes fluid to leak from the small blood vessels
- Immune thrombocytopenia – a serious condition that causes a shortage of platelets needed for normal blood clotting

? Is it safe to receive other vaccines before, after or at the same time as my COVID-19 vaccine?

Yes. You can receive COVID-19 vaccines before, after or at the same time as any other vaccines.

? How many doses of Janssen COVID-19 vaccine should I get?

You should receive your primary series and any booster doses which are recommended for you. Your primary series are the first doses that build your body's baseline immune response. Booster doses are given after the primary series is completed and help to build back protection that may have decreased over time.

The number of doses recommended depends on which vaccine you receive, your age, and your other risk factors. For more information, check [online](#) or talk to your health care provider.



www.nshealth.ca/coronavirusvaccine

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Before you receive a Janssen COVID-19 vaccine, tell your health care provider if:

- You experienced thrombosis with thrombocytopenia following previous vaccination with Janssen COVID-19 vaccine. You should not receive another dose of Janssen COVID-19 vaccine.
- You experienced capillary leak syndrome following previous vaccination with Janssen COVID-19 vaccine. You should not receive another dose of Janssen COVID-19 vaccine.
- You have a history of immune thrombocytopenia.
- You are at risk of thromboembolism.
- You have a history of Guillain-Barré syndrome.
- You have fainted or felt faint after getting past vaccines or medical procedures.
- You have a bleeding disorder or are taking medication that could affect blood clotting.
- You have had an anaphylactic reaction to a COVID-19 vaccine or any of its ingredients, or to another vaccine or injectable medication/product.
 - The main allergen in the Janssen COVID-19 vaccine is Polysorbate 80.
- You have been diagnosed with multisystem inflammatory syndrome in children (MIS-C) or adults (MIS-A).



**COVID-19
VACCINE
AFTERCARE**

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? After you receive the vaccine

- Stay in the clinic for 15 minutes after getting the vaccine. You may be asked to wait for 30 minutes if there is concern about a possible allergic reaction.
- Tell a health care provider at the clinic if you feel unwell while waiting.

? What can I expect over the next few days?

Most common side effects occur in the first few days and up to two weeks after getting the vaccine and should go away on their own. Side effects are expected and can show that the vaccine is working. Side effects include:

- Pain, swelling, or redness where the needle was given. Place a cool, damp cloth or wrapped ice pack over where the vaccine was given.
- Tiredness, headache, muscle and/or joint pain, nausea, vomiting, chills, fever, or enlarged lymph nodes (swollen glands) in your underarm. Pain or fever medication (acetaminophen or ibuprofen) may relieve the pain or fever. Check with your healthcare provider if you need advice about medication.

Seek medical attention right away if you think you may be experiencing a rare but serious side effect:

- Venous thromboembolism – swelling, redness, and/or pain (usually in the legs but can be in the arms) or shortness of breath and/or pain when breathing.
- Guillain-Barré syndrome – numbness, muscle weakness, and/or paralysis in the hands, feet, or limbs, difficulty with facial movements, trouble breathing or walking.
- Thrombosis with thrombocytopenia or immune thrombocytopenia – sudden severe and persistent or worsening headaches, shortness of breath, abdominal or chest pain, multiple small bruises or reddish spots on the skin, unusual bleeding, swelling, redness, paleness, or coolness in a limb, blurred vision, confusion.
- Capillary leak syndrome – rapid swelling of the limbs and feeling faint.

? When should I return for my next dose?

Completing your primary series and receiving any further doses for which you are eligible helps protect you against severe disease.

For more information, talk to your health care provider or check [online](#).



In rare cases, people can faint or have an allergic reaction after getting a vaccine.

- Tell a health care provider at the clinic **right away** if you have any of these symptoms:
- Trouble breathing.
- Hives (bumps on the skin that are often very itchy).
- Swelling of your face, tongue, or throat.

**Or if these symptoms occur
when you are at home:
CALL 911 RIGHT AWAY.**



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