

Facts on the Johnson & Johnson COVID-19 Vaccine

When did this vaccine become available in North Dakota?

The FDA issued an emergency use authorization (EUA) for [Johnson & Johnson](#) (J&J) (Janssen Pharmaceuticals) COVID-19 vaccine on February 27, 2021. In March 2021, North Dakota received its first allocation of J&J vaccine.

What type of vaccine is it?

The J&J COVID-19 vaccine is a non-replicating viral vector vaccine. This differs from the Pfizer and Moderna vaccines, which are both mRNA vaccines.

How does this vaccine work?

This vaccine [works](#) by using a viral vector, a harmless virus called adenovirus 26, which has been modified to include a gene that codes for the SARS-CoV-2 spike protein. Once the viral vector enters the human cell, it produces the SARS-CoV-2 spike protein and that triggers an immune response in our bodies. J&J used this same approach to make an Ebola vaccine that has been authorized for use by the European Medicines Agency.

How many doses does it require?

The J&J COVID-19 vaccine requires one dose. This differs from the Pfizer and Moderna vaccines that both require two doses to complete the series.

What is the effectiveness of this vaccine?

Clinical trial data indicated that this vaccine is 66% effective at preventing moderate to severe COVID-19, 85% effective at preventing severe disease, and it offers complete protection against COVID-19-related hospitalization and death 28 days after vaccination. The vaccine also provides protection against South Africa, United Kingdom, and Brazil COVID variants.

How is this vaccine valuable to our fight against COVID-19?

Coronavirus has become the leading cause of death in the U.S. It is incredibly valuable in our fight

against COVID-19 because it has shown to have complete protection against COVID-19 related hospitalizations and deaths, and it only requires one dose.

Who will be the target population for this vaccine?

The J&J vaccine has been authorized for use in people 18 years and older. For the time being, this vaccine won't be available for use in children and teens under 18. Like mRNA COVID-19 vaccines, the [J&J](#) vaccine can be administered to pregnant or lactating people.

What are the side effects from this vaccine?

Most common side effects reported were pain at the injection site, headache, fatigue, muscle aches and nausea. The J&J vaccine had one case of anaphylaxis (a life-threatening allergic reaction) in a vaccinated individual in [clinical trials](#). The occurrence of anaphylaxis is expected to be rare following vaccination.

Were different races and ethnicities included in the J&J clinical trials?

J&J is reporting that 26% of its participants in the U.S. and 31% of its participants globally are from diverse backgrounds.

Were fetal cells used to create the vaccine?

The J&J vaccine did require the use of fetal cell cultures to develop and manufacture the vaccine. The [Catholic Church](#) and the [Southern Baptist Ethics and Religious Liberty Commission](#) have both stated that receiving a COVID-19 vaccine that required fetal cell lines is morally acceptable. However, if a choice is available, the [Catholic Church](#) has stated that Pfizer's and Moderna's COVID-19 vaccines are preferable to J&J's COVID-19 vaccine.

How can I find COVID-19 vaccine in my area?

To see where COVID-19 vaccine is available in your area, check out the [NDDoH vaccine locator](#).