



What technology was used to create the Johnson & Johnson (J&J) COVID-19 vaccine?

The J&J COVID-19 vaccine uses a technology known as a viral vector. Viral vector vaccines use a modified version of a different virus (the vector) to deliver important instructions to our cells.

Specifically, the COVID-19 viral vector vaccine utilizes a gene from the virus that causes COVID-19 and inserts it into the vector. Our bodies begin to make a spike protein, triggering an immune response, which produces antibodies. These antibodies are what protect you in the future if the real virus enters your body.

Is the vaccine safe?

Like all emergency authorized vaccines, the J&J COVID-19 vaccine has been well studied for safety and effectiveness in large clinical trials. These types of vaccines have been used for treatment in recent Ebola outbreaks.

Safety monitoring of the J&J vaccine suggests there is a rare but serious condition involving blood clots and low platelets event called “thrombosis with thrombocytopenia syndrome” (TTS). Nearly all reports of this serious condition have been in adult women younger than 50 years old, but there have been reports in men and older women. This is a rare adverse event.

CDC and FDA recommended use of the J&J vaccine resume in the United States after a brief pause to investigate these reports. Women younger than 50 years old should be aware of the rare but increased risk of TTS. This event occurred in about seven per one million vaccinated women between 18 and 49 years old. This risk has not been seen for other COVID-19 vaccine options available. More information is available on the CDC website at www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/safety/JJUpdate.html.

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How many doses does the J&J vaccine require?

The vaccine is a single dose. However, J&J was recently authorized as a booster dose for people 18 and over. The booster dose can be administered two or more months after the initial single dose.

Who is authorized to take the J&J vaccine?

The vaccine is authorized for people 18 years of age or older.

How effective is the J&J vaccine?

According to a CDC study, the Johnson & Johnson COVID-19 vaccine was found to be 66.3% effective in preventing illness at least 14 days after vaccination. The vaccine is considered 85% effective after 28 days against severe infections.

What are the common side effects of the J&J vaccine?

The most common side effects are pain, redness and swelling at the injection site, tiredness, headache, muscle pain, chills, fever, and nausea. They typically last a few days.

Where can I go if I want more information about the J&J vaccine?

Additional information about the vaccine, including study details, can be found on the CDC website, at <https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/covid-19/info-by-product/janssen/>.

