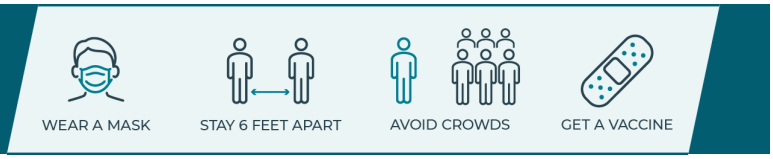
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
CDC 24/7: Saving Lives, Protecting People™

COVID-19



Recommendation to Pause Use of Johnson & Johnson's Janssen COVID-19 Vaccine

Updated Apr. 14, 2021 Print

On April 13, 2021, CDC and FDA recommended a pause in the use of Johnson & Johnson's Janssen COVID-19 Vaccine. Of the nearly 7 million doses administered so far in the United States, a small number of cases of a rare and severe type of blood clot have been reported in people after receiving the J&J/Janssen COVID-19 Vaccine. All reports occurred among women between the ages of 18 and 48, and symptoms occurred six to 13 days after vaccination. As of April 13, 2021, no cases have been reported among the more than 180 million people who received the Pfizer-BioNTech or Moderna vaccines.

J&J/Janssen COVID-19 Vaccine Update, April 13, 2021

The use of this vaccine is 'paused' for now. This is because the safety systems that make sure vaccines are safe received a small number of reports of a rare and severe type of blood clot happening in people who got this vaccine.

We do not know enough yet to say if the vaccine is related to or caused this health issue. To be extra careful, CDC and FDA recommend that the vaccine not be given until we learn more.

If you got this vaccine in the last three weeks, seek medical care urgently if you develop any of the following symptoms:

- **severe headache,**
- **backache,**
- **new neurologic symptoms,**
- **severe abdominal pain,**
- **shortness of breath,**
- **leg swelling,**
- **tiny red spots on the skin (petechiae), or**
- **new or easy bruising**

CDC and FDA recommended this pause to communicate with and prepare the healthcare system to recognize and treat patients appropriately. Communication with healthcare providers will also emphasize the importance of reporting and how to report severe events in people who have received this vaccine. This pause also will allow CDC's independent advisory committee, the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices, to meet, review these cases, and assess their potential significance.

Watch today's ACIP meeting at 1:30pm ET.

Safety Is a Top Priority

COVID-19 vaccine safety is a top priority for the federal government, and all reports of health problems following COVID-19 vaccination are taken very seriously. This potential safety issue was caught early, and this pause reflects the federal government's commitment to transparency as CDC and FDA review these data. COVID-19 vaccines have undergone and will continue to undergo the most intensive safety monitoring in U.S. history.

What to Do If You Received the J&J/Janssen COVID-19 Vaccine

If you received the vaccine **more than a month ago**, the risk of developing a blood clot is very low at this time.

If you received the vaccine **within the last few weeks**, contact your healthcare provider and seek medical treatment urgently if you develop any of the following symptoms:

- severe headache,
- backache,
- new neurologic symptoms,
- severe abdominal pain,
- shortness of breath,
- leg swelling,
- tiny red spots on the skin (petechiae), or
- new or easy bruising

If you are **scheduled to get the J&J/Janssen COVID-19 Vaccine**, please work with your vaccine provider to reschedule your appointment to receive another authorized and recommended COVID-19 vaccine. There are two other COVID-19 vaccines authorized and recommended for use in the United States: Pfizer-BioNTech and Moderna.

If you experience any adverse events after vaccination, report them to v-safe and the Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System .

For Healthcare Providers

Healthcare providers are recommended to **pause the use** of the J&J/Janssen COVID-19 Vaccine. **Maintain acute clinical awareness of symptoms** that might represent serious thrombotic events or thrombocytopenia in patients who have recently received the J&J/Janssen COVID-19 Vaccine, including:

- severe headache,
- backache,
- new neurologic symptoms,
- severe abdominal pain,
- shortness of breath,
- leg swelling,
- petechiae, or
- new or easy bruising.

Read the official CDC health alert, Cases of Cerebral Venous Sinus Thrombosis with Thrombocytopenia after Receipt of the Johnson & Johnson COVID-19 Vaccine, which includes details about how to handle a patient that presents with thrombosis or thrombocytopenia.

Report adverse events to the Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System .

For Vaccine Providers

Please work with individuals who were scheduled to receive the J&J/Janssen COVID-19 Vaccine in the days ahead to reschedule their appointments to receive another authorized and recommended COVID-19 vaccine (i.e., Pfizer-BioNTech, Moderna).

This page will be updated as more information becomes available.

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Content source: National Center for Immunization and Respiratory Diseases (NCIRD), Division of Viral Diseases