

COVID-19

Johnson & Johnson

Vaccine FAQ



4-26-2021

Questions about the Johnson & Johnson (Janssen) vaccine for COVID-19

Many of you have seen the news about the Johnson & Johnson (Janssen) COVID-19 vaccine—and we understand that you may have questions. At Mount Sinai, we want to provide you with the latest, most trustworthy information.

Why were health care providers concerned about the Johnson & Johnson (Janssen) COVID-19 vaccine?

There have been isolated instances of people developing blood clots after receiving the Johnson & Johnson (also known as Janssen) vaccine. We do not yet know whether the vaccine caused these occurrences. At this point, there have been 15 cases out of 6.8 million doses given. Most of these cases have occurred in women under 50, and all occurred within three weeks of receiving the vaccine.

Is the Johnson & Johnson vaccine currently authorized for use?

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) paused distribution of the Johnson & Johnson (Janssen) COVID-19 vaccine while the data about these events was reviewed. After reviewing the data, they lifted the pause on Friday, April 23. Johnson & Johnson (Janssen) COVID-19 vaccine may now be used for all patients 18 and over in the United States, but will carry a warning label about the rare blood clotting events.

Should I be worried if I got the Johnson & Johnson vaccine?

We understand that you may be concerned if you or a loved one received the vaccine. However, you should know that these are extremely rare occurrences—and we don't know if they are related to the vaccine. You should be concerned if you or a loved one develops:

- Severe, persistent headache or blurred vision
- New neurologic symptoms
- Persistent abdominal pain
- Shortness of breath or chest pain
- Leg swelling
- Recent bruising or pinpoint-like rash

If you develop any of these symptoms, call your health care provider—or if you believe the symptoms are life-threatening, call 911.

Is there anything I can do to prevent these symptoms?

Right now, there are no recommended precautionary measures or treatments. The CDC and FDA are continuing to monitor the safety of all vaccines.

