

Viral vector-based COVID-19 Vaccine (Janssen)

Vaccination,
the best protection

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Vaccination is the best protection against COVID-19 and its complications, in addition to other measures such as physical distancing, wearing a medical mask or face covering, and hand washing.

Disease	Signs and symptoms	Possible complications
COVID-19	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Fever• Cough• Trouble breathing• Loss of smell• Fatigue• Headaches• Muscle aches• Nausea, vomiting, diarrhea• Overall sick feeling	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Persistent long COVID-19 complications lasting several months: trouble breathing, fatigue, weakness, difficulty falling/staying asleep, and concentrating• Pneumonia and other respiratory issues• Heart problems• Neurological problems such as brain inflammation, etc.• Death

The vaccine

Vaccination is the best protection against COVID-19 and its complications. Janssen vaccine can be given to men age 30 and over and to women age 60 and over who wish to receive a single dose of vaccine. Janssen vaccine can also be given to some persons age 18 and over.

Janssen vaccine's schedule includes 1 dose. Janssen vaccine is about 67% effective in preventing the disease and 77% effective in preventing hospitalizations. Experts recommend 1 additional dose of Pfizer or Moderna vaccine and a booster dose of either vaccine after the Janssen vaccine to improve protection against infections caused by the Omicron variant. Studies are ongoing to evaluate its effectiveness against the Omicron variant.

Symptoms after vaccination

Some symptoms may be caused by the vaccine (e.g., pain at the injection site). Other problem may occur by chance and are not related to the vaccine (e.g., cold, gastro). Most reactions are harmless and do not last long.

This vaccine cannot cause COVID-19 because they do not contain the SARS-CoV-2 virus that causes the disease. However, people who have been in contact with the virus could still develop COVID-19. It is important to continue to apply health measures until a majority of the population has been vaccinated.

Safety of the vaccine

Janssen vaccine is approved by Health Canada. It has met all the requirements for approval. The vaccine was tested on a large number of people. Experts are closely monitoring any adverse reactions that could occur following vaccination and taking measures to ensure that the Janssen vaccine is safe and effective.

Very rare cases of serious blood clots with drop in the number of blood cells that help clotting following vaccination with Janssen vaccine have been reported. Rare cases of Guillain-Barré syndrome have also been reported.

(see verso)

Viral vector-based COVID-19 Vaccine (Janssen) *(continued)*

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Frequency	Known reactions to this vaccine	What to do
Very often (less than 50% of people)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pain or tenderness at the injection site • Fever • Headache, fatigue • Nausea • Muscle soreness 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Apply a cold, damp compress at the injection site. • Use medication for fever or discomfort if needed. • See a doctor if symptoms are severe, especially if the following symptoms appear within a few days of vaccination: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – shortness of breath, chest pain, leg swelling or stomach pain; – severe headache or headache that has lasted for a few days, blurred vision or bruises on the skin.
Often (less than 10% of people)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Itching, swelling, warmth or redness at the injection site 	
Very rarely (1 person in 100,000)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Guillain-Barré syndrome (progressive, reversible paralysis, which can sometimes leave permanent effects) 	
Exceptionally (1 to 9 persons in 1 million)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Blood clots with drop in the number of blood cells that help clotting within 4 to 20 days following vaccination 	

If you have COVID-19 symptoms (fever, cough, trouble breathing, loss of smell, etc.), consult the *COVID-19 Symptom Self-Assessment Tool*:
<https://www.quebec.ca/en/health/health-issues/a-z/2019-coronavirus/self-isolation/covid-19-self-assessment-tool>.

We recommend that you stay at the clinic for at least 15 minutes after vaccination because allergic reactions may occur. If an allergic reaction occurs, the symptoms will appear a few minutes after the vaccination. The person giving the vaccine will be able to treat this reaction immediately.

For any questions, contact the person giving the vaccine, or Info-Santé 811 or your doctor.