

Viral vector-based COVID-19 Vaccine (Janssen)

Vaccination,
the best protection

November 2022

Vaccination is the best protection against COVID-19 and its complications.

| 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 people age 18 and over for whom messenger RNA vaccine (Pfizer or Moderna) and recombinant protein vaccines with adjuvant (Novavax or Medicago) are contraindicated or who refuse them.

Janssen vaccine's schedule includes 1 dose for the regular schedule. People on dialysis or with weakened immune systems should receive 3 doses of vaccine preferably with messenger RNA vaccines (Pfizer or Moderna). One or more booster doses of Pfizer or Moderna vaccine may be recommended depending on the person's age or health condition, regardless of the vaccine previously received.

Giving a Pfizer or Moderna vaccine after the Janssen vaccine does not appear to cause more reactions than 2 doses of messenger RNA vaccine.

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, followed by one or more booster doses 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.

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.

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.

(see verso)

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

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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.

| 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 | |

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.**