



COVID-19 Vaccines: Janssen (Johnson & Johnson)

COVID-19 vaccines protect people from getting and spreading COVID-19. They also protect against getting seriously sick from COVID-19. Health Canada has approved [four COVID-19 vaccines](#): Pfizer-BioNTech, Moderna, AstraZeneca and [Janssen \(Johnson & Johnson\)](#). These vaccines do not contain the COVID-19 virus and cannot give you COVID-19.

mRNA Vaccines are Recommended

The Pfizer-BioNTech and Moderna vaccines are '[messenger RNA](#)' or '[mRNA](#)' vaccines requiring two doses to complete a primary series. Boosters give the best protection for anyone 5 years of age and older and help reduce the risk of becoming seriously sick with COVID-19. mRNA vaccines are recommended because they are safer and more effective than the Janssen and AstraZeneca vaccines.

Janssen (Johnson & Johnson) Vaccine

The Janssen vaccine is a '[viral vector](#)' vaccine approved for people 18 years and older who are not able or willing to receive either an mRNA or a Novavax vaccine. Informed consent is required. This vaccine requires one dose to complete the primary series, with a booster dose recommended. This vaccine may not provide adequate protection against new variants, including Omicron. .

A booster dose of an mRNA vaccine is recommended after getting the Janssen vaccine. Booster doses can be given at least 6 months after a COVID-19 vaccine dose or a COVID-19 infection.

In rare cases, people who get the Janssen vaccine can develop:

- Vaccine-induced immune thrombotic thrombocytopenia (VITT - blood clots with low platelets)
- Capillary leak syndrome (fluid leak from small blood vessels)
- Guillain-Barré syndrome (body's immune system attacks and damages nerves)
- Immune thrombocytopenia (low platelets – cells that help stop bleeding)
- Venous thromboembolism (blood clots in deep veins)

Get medical care right away if certain symptoms happen within the first month after vaccination. Symptoms include: severe headache that does not go away; seizures; blurry or double vision; shortness of breath; severe chest, back or abdominal pain; swelling or pain in the arms or legs; unusual bleeding, bruising, or tiny round spots under the skin beyond the site of vaccination.

For more information, talk to your health care provider or visit our website at toronto.ca/COVID19.

Resources

- [Full Janssen vaccine information sheet](#) (Ontario Ministry of Health)
- [Update on Viral Vector Vaccines](#) (Toronto Public Health)