

# What you need to know about



## Why we count on vaccines

The purpose of any COVID vaccine is to change the coronavirus from a deadly disease that may result in hospitalizations and deaths, into a normal illness instead of a deadly global pandemic.

## Stopping severe illness and death

The Johnson & Johnson vaccine has been shown to be **100% effective in preventing COVID-related hospitalizations and deaths**. It is equally as effective in preventing severe illness and death as vaccines made by Pfizer-BioNTech and Moderna.

## One and done

The Johnson & Johnson vaccine is delivered in one shot, and does not require the same sub-zero refrigeration and storage as the other two mRNA vaccines. This makes it easier to vaccinate more people faster.

## About those variants

The Food and Drug Administration says that clinical trials showed that Johnson & Johnson's vaccine provided "**protection against several emerging SARS-CoV-2 variants of concern,**" including the ones from South Africa and Brazil.

## Stop the spread, stop the mutations

When more of the population is vaccinated, it decreases the cycle of transmission which will reduce the likelihood of further mutations developing, which is another reason why people should get vaccinated as soon as possible — with the vaccine that is available to them.



# Which is the best COVID vaccine for you?

You've heard the Johnson & Johnson news, so let's test your COVID-19 vaccine knowledge:

**Which is the best vaccine for you?**

- A. Pfizer-BioNTech
- B. Moderna
- C. Johnson & Johnson
- D. Any of the above

**Answer: D**

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**That's right, the best vaccine is the one in front of you on vaccination day.**

"Our clinical team has reviewed the submission (to the FDA) for the J&J vaccine," says Eric Arlia, Hartford HealthCare's Senior Director of Pharmacy. "Their vaccine is equally effective as other vaccines at preventing serious illness and death. No patients in their study, post-28 days, were hospitalized or had passed away. So we have tremendous faith in their vaccine. And as a one-dose vaccine, it offers certain advantages in ease of administration."

Don't dismiss Johnson & Johnson's vaccine because it's one dose instead of two or might have appeared slightly less effective in trials than either the Pfizer-BioNTech or Moderna vaccines.

In clinical trials, the two-dose Pfizer-BioNTech and Moderna vaccines were about 95 percent effective at lowering the risk of getting COVID-19. These trials were performed last year, before more contagious variants were identified around the world.

The Food and Drug Administration reported the Johnson & Johnson vaccine 72 percent effective at preventing all COVID-19 and 86 percent effective at preventing severe cases, which often require hospitalization. Notably, the Johnson & Johnson vaccine proved almost as effective in a trial in South Africa, where a new, more virulent strain has been identified. Though slightly less effective overall at preventing all COVID-related illness, at 64 percent, it was still 82 percent effective at preventing severe disease.

The FDA report also revealed the vaccine effectively protects against United Kingdom and Brazil variants. It's possible neither the Pfizer-BioNTech nor the Moderna vaccine is as effective against the new variants.

**Some vaccine perspective:** The seasonal flu vaccine ranges from 40 percent to 60 percent effectiveness, depending on the year's strain.

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