

# Addressing Misinformation About the Effectiveness of the J&J COVID-19 Vaccine

The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has issued emergency use authorizations (EUAs) for three COVID-19 vaccines. There has been significant confusion and misinformation about the relative effectiveness of Johnson & Johnson's COVID-19 vaccine, developed by Janssen. In this document, the American Society of Health-System Pharmacists (ASHP) addresses misinformation about the effectiveness of the J&J vaccine.

| MYTH  | FACT   |
|---|--|
| <p>The J&amp;J vaccine is less effective at <b>preventing hospitalization or death from COVID-19</b>.</p> | <p>The J&amp;J, Moderna, and Pfizer-BioNTech vaccines are all highly effective in clinically meaningful endpoints, including preventing severe COVID-19 cases that could result in hospitalization or death.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The J&amp;J vaccine was highly effective in preventing severe cases of COVID-19, even when it was studied in countries experiencing more contagious variants of COVID-19.</li> </ul>   |
| <p>The J&amp;J vaccine is less effective at <b>preventing COVID-19</b>.</p>                               | <p>The J&amp;J, Moderna, and Pfizer-BioNTech vaccines are all highly effective at preventing cases of COVID-19 and exceeded the minimum threshold established by the FDA to demonstrate efficacy.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No head-to-head trials have been conducted that would allow clinically meaningful comparison of the vaccines.</li> </ul> <p>The J&amp;J vaccine was studied at a later time during the pandemic and in countries that were experiencing more contagious variants and different rates of COVID-19, making direct comparison to other vaccines unreliable. While the J&amp;J vaccine reported lower efficacy than other vaccines for preventing COVID-19, its efficacy was higher when tested in the United States than in other countries.</p>   |
| <p>The J&amp;J vaccine <b>is less safe</b> than other COVID-19 vaccines.</p>                              | <p>The J&amp;J, Moderna, and Pfizer-BioNTech vaccines are all safe.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>While it is inappropriate to draw conclusions by comparing the adverse events in different trials, fewer participants in the J&amp;J trial reported adverse events, such as injection site pain, fatigue, headache, chills, joint pain, and fever, than in trials of other COVID-19 vaccines.</li> <li>A temporary pause in use of the J&amp;J vaccine allowed investigation of unusual cases of blood clots and low platelets reported in a very small number of recipients of the vaccine and the risks and benefits were evaluated. The FDA determined the benefits of the J&amp;J vaccine in preventing COVID-19 outweigh the risks of these very rare events; however, added a warning to the EUA for patients and healthcare providers.</li> <li>Severe allergic reactions are very uncommon for all authorized COVID-19 vaccines. As with all vaccines, patients with a history of severe anaphylactic reactions should be closely monitored when receiving any COVID-19 vaccine.</li> </ul> |

**SOURCE:**

Janssen COVID-19 Vaccine EUA Fact Sheet for Healthcare Providers: <https://www.fda.gov/media/146304/download>

Janssen COVID-19 Vaccine EUA Fact Sheet for Recipients and Caregivers: <https://www.fda.gov/media/146305/download>