

Frequently Asked Questions about the Johnson & Johnson COVID-19 Vaccine: Information for Residents of Correctional Facilities

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AMEND at the University of California, San Francisco, draws on the principles of public health and human rights to bring transformative change to incarceration in the U.S. Our mission is to create stronger communities by transforming prisons and jails into places of humanity, dignity, and health.

COVID-19 VACCINES: THE BASICS

- Vaccines teach the immune system how to recognize and fight off the virus that causes COVID-19. This can prevent vaccinated people from getting sick.
- The Johnson & Johnson vaccine is given as one shot and it is **HIGHLY EFFECTIVE** at **preventing serious illness from COVID-19**.

COMMON QUESTIONS ABOUT VACCINE SAFETY

What happened with the Johnson & Johnson vaccine?

- The Johnson & Johnson vaccine has been given to nearly 8 million people. Fifteen people have been found to develop unusual blood clots within 5 to 24 days after getting the vaccine. These blood clots are very serious. So far three people have died from them.
- The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) temporarily stopped use of the Johnson & Johnson COVID-19 vaccine for about 10 days in April while they investigated these cases. Because this possible side effect is extremely rare, and because COVID-19 is very dangerous, medical experts recommended continuing to give the Johnson & Johnson COVID-19 vaccine.

Are certain people more likely to get these blood clots?

- The blood clots have happened mostly in women between 18 and 50 years old, although there have been cases in men and in people more than 50 years old.

How likely am I to get a blood clot due to the Johnson & Johnson vaccine?

- Experts estimate there is about 1 case of unusual blood clots for every 500,000 people who get the vaccine. For comparison, remember that COVID-19 is a very dangerous disease. For every 500,000 people who contract COVID-19, about 9,000 people will die.
- If you got your vaccine more than 4 weeks ago, you are not at risk of developing a blood clot related to the vaccine. There have been no cases of unusual blood clots developing more than 24 days after the vaccine.

How do I know if I have one of these blood clots?

- If you have a bad headache, difficulty breathing, leg swelling, or abdominal pain, contact a health care provider immediately.

Have these unusual blood clots happened in people who got the other types of COVID-19 vaccines (called the Pfizer and Moderna vaccines)?

- There have been no cases of unusual blood clots among the more than 200 million Americans who have received either the Pfizer or Moderna COVID-19 vaccines.

MORE RESOURCES

If you or your loved ones have more questions we should answer on the next version of this FAQ, email us at info@amend.us or write to AMEND, 490 Illinois St, Floor 8, UCSF Box 1265, San Francisco, CA 94143.

References

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/safety/JJUpdate.html>

NEJM Journal Watch <https://blogs.jwatch.org/hiv-id-observations/index.php/the-decision-on-the-johnson-and-johnson-covid-19-vaccine-surprised-me-heres-why/2021/04/25/>

Insurance Institute for Highway Safety <https://www.iihs.org/topics/fatality-statistics>