



# The Janssen COVID-19 vaccine

Just like the other approved coronavirus vaccines, the Janssen COVID-19 vaccine prevents (serious) disease due to coronavirus.

## Protection and safety

The efficacy, safety and quality of the Janssen COVID-19 vaccine has been assessed by the European Medicines Agency (EMA) and the Medicines Evaluation Board (MEB). It has been tested on tens of thousands of people. Studies into the Janssen COVID-19 vaccine have revealed that it provides 67% protection against moderately serious disease due to coronavirus and 85% protection against severe COVID-19. If someone who has been vaccinated still becomes ill, they will experience a milder form of disease. The vaccine primarily provides protection against serious disease and hospitalisation.

## Use of the Janssen vaccine

The way the Janssen vaccine is being used changed on 2 June 2021. The Health Council of the Netherlands [Gezondheidsraad] has emphasised that the Janssen vaccine is effective and sufficiently safe. However, in the context of the national vaccination strategy the Health Council recommends that, from now on, the BioNTech/Pfizer or Moderna vaccines should be offered to age groups which have yet to be vaccinated.

According to the Health Council it is still sensible to offer the Janssen vaccine in some cases because people are immediately fully vaccinated after just one dose.

What is more, anyone over the age of 18 who wants to can register with the Municipal Health Service (GGD) for vaccination with the Janssen vaccine. People who already have an appointment for vaccination with a different vaccine but now want to have the Janssen vaccine after all can change their appointment in order to receive 1 dose of the Janssen vaccine.

## Changing your Janssen vaccination appointment

If you want to change your appointment for a Janssen vaccination into an appointment for a BioNTech/Pfizer or Moderna vaccination, you should contact the GGD on 0800 – 7070, or make an appointment via the website [coronavaccinatie-afspraak.nl](https://coronavaccinatie-afspraak.nl).

## Vector vaccine

The Janssen COVID-19 vaccine is a so-called vector vaccine. A small piece of the genetic code of coronavirus is added to an existing, harmless cold virus (an adenovirus). This causes the immune system to respond and produce antibodies to fight the coronavirus spike protein. If the body comes into contact with coronavirus at a later date, it recognises the virus and immediately starts to produce antibodies.

## Difference with mRNA vaccines such as BioNTech/Pfizer and Moderna

All coronavirus vaccines work by causing the body's immune system to make antibodies. The way those antibodies are produced is different in the case of the Janssen vaccine than, for example, the BioNTech/Pfizer and Moderna vaccines.

BioNTech/Pfizer and Moderna are mRNA vaccines. These contain a piece of genetic information, known as the mRNA. This mRNA helps to create the coronavirus spike protein. Pieces of this protein are recognised by the immune system and the body responds by producing antibodies. In the case of the BioNTech/Pfizer and Moderna vaccines, two doses are necessary for proper protection against coronavirus.

## Pfizer and Moderna vaccines for medical risk groups

People with underlying health conditions are advised to make an appointment for an mRNA vaccine. This advice applies primarily to people with an immune disorder or whose immune system does not function properly due to medication which reduces their immunity (for example chemotherapy in relation to cancer treatment) and people with an increased or serious risk of COVID-19 due to severe heart or lung problems. An mRNA vaccine offers the best possible protection for these groups of people. Janssen is not an mRNA vaccine.

## Not suitable for pregnant women.

The National Institute for Public Health and the Environment (RIVM) advises all pregnant women to be vaccinated with an mRNA vaccine as soon as they are invited to make an appointment. Janssen is not an mRNA vaccine. More information can be found on the page about pregnancy and coronavirus vaccination.

## 1 dose

The Janssen COVID-19 vaccine consists of 1 dose. You will be protected against coronavirus from 2 weeks after the vaccination onwards. The chance of you becoming ill due to coronavirus will then be small.

## Side effects of the Janssen vaccine

The most common side effects are:

- pain at the injection site;
- headache;
- fatigue;
- muscle and joint pain;
- nausea and
- fever.

These side effects are mild and will quickly disappear (within 2 to 3 days). The side effects are comparable to those of many other vaccinations, such as the flu vaccination.

### Extremely rare side effects of serious thrombosis with a low number of blood platelets

Thrombosis in combination with a low number of blood platelets is one of the extremely rare side effects of the Janssen vaccine. It is important that people who have been vaccinated stay alert to the symptoms detailed below. These could be an indication of the side effects of serious thrombosis with a low number of blood platelets. If you experience these symptoms after receiving the Janssen vaccination, it is important to seek medical assistance immediately:

- shortness of breath;
- pain in the chest or stomach;
- swelling or coldness in an arm or leg;
- severe or worsening headache or blurred vision;
- persistent bleeding;
- multiple small bruises, reddish or purplish spots, or blood blisters under the skin.

These symptoms usually occur within two weeks.

## Reporting side effects

If you suffer serious side effects after vaccination, you can report them to the Netherlands Pharmacovigilance Centre Lareb [Bijwerkingencentrum Lareb].

Despite all the testing that has been done, rare or late side effects may still occur. That is why vaccine manufacturers are required to submit a safety report to the EMA every month and immediately report any suspicion of a serious side effect. The MEB also monitors the efficacy, safety and quality of all vaccines closely.

## Effectiveness against new coronavirus variants

Based on present knowledge the Janssen vaccine works effectively against mutated variants of the virus. How effective the vaccine is against mutations is still being studied. Manufacturers are keeping a close eye on the situation so that they can be sure that the vaccine provides sufficient protection against new variants of coronavirus. It is quite normal for coronavirus to mutate and that is frequently the case with viruses.

## Transmission of coronavirus after vaccination

It is not yet known whether the vaccine also prevents the spread of coronavirus. It is not yet clear whether vaccinated people can still be carriers of the virus or can transmit it to others. Studies into this are still ongoing.

## Protection against coronavirus

It is currently not yet known how long the Janssen COVID-19 vaccine will provide protection against coronavirus. Studies into this are still ongoing. In any event the participants in these studies are going to be monitored for at least another 2 years.

## More information

[www.coronavaccinatie.nl/Janssen](http://www.coronavaccinatie.nl/Janssen)

[www.coronavaccinatie.nl/ikwiljanssen](http://www.coronavaccinatie.nl/ikwiljanssen)

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Más información?  
[coronavaccinatie.nl](http://coronavaccinatie.nl)  
o llame al 0800-1351