FAQ's About the Johnson & Johnson COVID-19 Vaccine

The information below is based on "Frequently Asked Questions about the Johnson & Johnson COVID-19 Vaccine: Information for Residents of Correctional Facilities," created by AMEND at the University of California, San Francisco.

1. What is the Johnson & Johnson vaccine (J&J)?

A one-dose shot proven highly effective at preventing serious illness from COVID-19.

2. What are the risks associated with J&J?

More than 8 million people have gotten the J&J vaccine. Fifteen people developed unusual and serious blood clots within 5 to 24 days, and three people died.

Experts estimate that about 1 person out of every 500,000 vaccinated has been affected by these blood clots. The risk of developing serious illness from COVID-19 is much higher – for every 500,000 people who contracted the virus, 9,000 died.

3. Are certain people more likely to get blood clots from J&J?

The likelihood of developing blood clots after receiving the J&J vaccine is very low. Most people who experienced blood clots after vaccination were women between the ages of 18 and 50, but there have been cases in men and people over the age of 50.

4. How long after getting J&J are people at risk of blood clots?

The risk of developing blood clots related to the J&J vaccine ends after 24 days. There have been no reports of blood clots after 24 days of vaccination.

5. What are the symptoms to look for after getting J&J?

You should contact a health care professional immediately if you have a bad headache, difficulty breathing, leg swelling, or abdominal pain.

6. Has J&J been approved by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA)?

The FDA approved the vaccine in February of 2021, but temporarily paused it for about 10 days in April while they investigated the cases of blood clots. Because this possible side effect is extremely rare, and COVID-19 is very dangerous, the FDA medical experts recommended the continuation of the vaccine on April 23.