

Learn more about the Johnson & Johnson COVID-19 Vaccine



The Washington State Department of Health heard your questions and concerns about getting vaccinated while being incarcerated or detained. Getting vaccinated is a personal choice—here’s some information to help you make your decision.

How has COVID-19 impacted people who are incarcerated?

COVID-19 is more likely to spread in places where people live close together. Across the country, people in state and federal prisons have higher rates of COVID-19 than the overall rates for each state. According to the COVID Prison Project, 33 percent of people in Washington state and federal prisons have tested positive for COVID-19, compared to 4 percent of all Washingtonians (as of February 22, 2021). However, these data are likely incomplete.¹

¹ Madeline Guth, “Key Issues to Watch for Justice-Involved Populations: COVID-19, Vaccines, and Medicaid,” Kaiser Family Foundation (February 24, 2021).

How many shots do I need?

For the Johnson & Johnson vaccine, you will receive one shot. The vaccine is fully effective two weeks later.

J&J is a viral vector vaccine.

Viral vector vaccines use a safe version of a different virus (in this case, a cold virus) as a vehicle to deliver instructions to your body about how to make antibodies to fight COVID-19. You cannot get a cold or COVID-19 from the vaccine.

What are the side effects?

Side effects are normal. With the Johnson & Johnson vaccine, people have reported fatigue, fever, headache, injection site pain, and/or myalgia (pain in a muscle or group of muscles) that go away in a day or two. These symptoms are a sign that the vaccine is working. The common side effects of the vaccines are not as bad as getting COVID-19, which can lead to illness, hospitalization, and death.

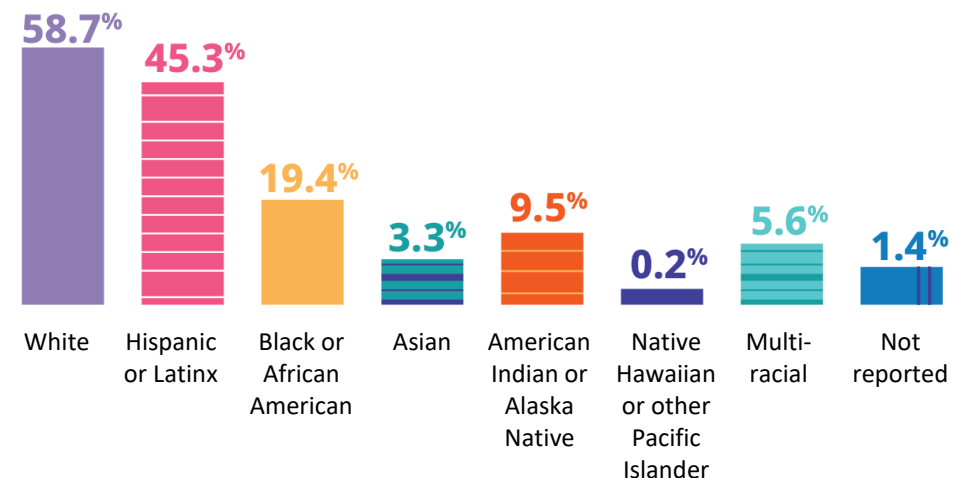
Are the vaccines safe?

Each vaccine was tested on tens of thousands of people of different races and ethnicities (see below) and no serious safety concerns were reported. Studies showed the COVID-19 vaccines were just as safe and effective in people with medical conditions (41% of global Johnson & Johnson clinical trial participants had one or more underlying health conditions).



So far, tens of millions of people across the country have gotten vaccinated. The federal government and the Department of Health check safety reports regularly to make sure there are no safety concerns.

Participants in Johnson & Johnson vaccine trials²:



² Food and Drug Administration. “FDA Briefing Document: Janssen Ad26.COVID.S Vaccine for the Prevention of COVID-19”, Vaccines and Related Biological Products Advisory Committee Meeting. February 26, 2021.

What was the efficacy of Johnson & Johnson in the clinical trials?



- 74% protection against any illness
- 85% protection against severe illness
- 100% protection against hospitalizations and death

What to know about vaccine efficacy

Efficacy is a measurement of how well a vaccine prevents disease in a clinical trial. The clinical trials happened at different times in different places, so the efficacy numbers can't really be compared. They just show what happened in each individual trial. **Effectiveness** is the measurement of how well a vaccine prevents disease in real world. We are still waiting to learn the effectiveness of the vaccines.

Wasn't use of Johnson & Johnson vaccine paused?

In early April, six women who received the Johnson & Johnson vaccine reported a rare type of blood clot. Our safety monitoring system flagged the issue and the federal government paused use of this vaccine until they could perform a safety review. During this review, they found that the benefits of being vaccinated far outweighed the risks, and lifted the pause on the vaccine.

The number of people who got blood clots after the Johnson & Johnson vaccine was extremely low compared to the millions of people who got vaccinated and didn't get blood clots. For example, the risk is much lower than taking birth control, which millions of women use every day.

I've had COVID-19. Can I get the vaccine?

Yes, experts recommend anyone who has had COVID-19 get the vaccine. Data show it is uncommon to be re-infected with COVID-19 in the 90 days after you were infected, so you might have some protection from COVID-19 (called natural immunity). However, we don't know how long after that natural immunity might last.

What are the ingredients of the vaccines?

Like other vaccines, COVID-19 vaccines contain fat, salts, and sugars to help them work better in the body. The ingredients are all safe and needed for the vaccine to do its job. The vaccines do not contain human cells (including fetal cells or parts), the virus that causes COVID-19, any animal by-products including pork products, latex, metals, tracking devices, or preservatives. The vaccines are not grown in eggs and contain no egg products.

How can I get a COVID-19 vaccination?

All people who are incarcerated in Washington prisons, jails, and detention centers will soon be or have already been offered the vaccine. Tens of millions of people around the country have been vaccinated with no safety issues. It is the goal of the Washington State Department of Health to ensure all people incarcerated in Washington state are offered the COVID-19 vaccine and receive the information they need about its safety and efficacy so people can make the best decision to protect themselves.