



# General information on the COVID-19 vaccination with the vector vaccine from Janssen

## Is the vaccination safe and effective?

Since every vaccine in Switzerland must be authorised, it has to meet stringent safety, efficacy and quality requirements.

Swissmedic, the Swiss Agency for Therapeutic Products, has carefully assessed and authorised the vaccines against COVID-19. They are safe and effective.

Several thousand people have received Janssen's vector vaccine in trials. Since its approval, many millions of people have been vaccinated with this vaccine. Experts will continue to monitor the safety and efficacy of the vaccine. The benefits of a vaccine must significantly outweigh the risks. Only then will the vaccine be recommended in Switzerland.

## Where can I be vaccinated?

The federal government has drawn up a vaccination strategy and vaccination recommendations. The cantons are responsible for vaccination. Find out more from your cantonal website or infoline ([www.foph-coronavirus.ch/cantons](http://www.foph-coronavirus.ch/cantons)) where you can be vaccinated, or ask your doctor or a pharmacist.

## For whom is the vaccination recommended?

We recommend vaccination against COVID-19 with the vector vaccine from Janssen for people aged 18 and over who

- cannot be vaccinated with an mRNA vaccine for medical reasons;
- refuse to accept the mRNA vaccines.

## Who should not be vaccinated with the Janssen vaccine?

We do not recommend the COVID-19 vaccination with the vector vaccine from Janssen for the following:

- People with a severe, confirmed allergy to an ingredient of the vaccine.
- People who have had capillary leak syndrome (CLS).
- Young people and children aged under 18 as well as pregnant and breastfeeding women. There is not currently sufficient data on the use of the vaccine in these groups.
- Individuals with a weakened immune system (due to an illness or therapy).

Please note: If you have a high temperature or are feeling ill or unwell, postpone your vaccination.

If you are waiting for your COVID-19 test result, are in isolation or are in quarantine, do not have the vaccination now. Go for the vaccination as soon as you can.

## What about if I am pregnant or planning to become pregnant?

We recommend vaccination with an mRNA vaccine.

If you are pregnant or are planning to become pregnant and have questions about the vaccination, talk to your doctor or midwife.

## What happens during the vaccination?

You receive an injection in the upper arm. After the injection you remain at the vaccination centre for another 15 minutes for observation.

## How many injections do I have to have?

A single injection is needed for full primary immunisation. For better protection, we recommend, if possible, that between 28 days to 4 months after vaccination you supplement the primary immunisation with a dose of an mRNA vaccine from Moderna or Pfizer/BioNTech.

## How does the vaccination protect me?

Janssen's viral vector vaccine uses a harmless virus as a means of transport (vector) to transmit important information about the pathogen to your cells. Your body gradually builds up protection against COVID-19.

This takes up to around three weeks after the injection. The vaccination strengthens your body's defences. It helps your body fight the virus. The risk that you will get COVID-19 is then greatly reduced.

Important: Complete protection is not possible. Some people can still get COVID-19 despite being vaccinated. However, the vaccination does offer good protection against serious illness. So get tested immediately if you have symptoms of COVID-19. You will find further details on how the vaccination works here: [www.foph-coronavirus.ch/vector](http://www.foph-coronavirus.ch/vector)

## How long does the vaccination protect me?

The protection from infection and from mild and severe illness diminishes with time. A booster vaccination with an mRNA vaccine is therefore recommended from 4 months after primary immunisation. People who cannot be vaccinated with an mRNA vaccine for medical reasons or who refuse mRNA vaccines are recommended a second dose of Janssen's vaccine from 2 months after primary immunisation.

**Can I get COVID-19 because of the vaccination?**

No. You do not get COVID-19 as a result of the vaccination. The vaccines do not contain any coronaviruses.

**Should I get vaccinated if I've already been infected with the coronavirus?**

It is still worthwhile getting vaccinated if you have already had a coronavirus infection. While you are generally protected against renewed infection for a certain period after becoming infected, it is not known just how long this protection lasts. We recommend that you have the vaccination to give you better and longer-term protection. If possible, get yourself vaccinated within three months of having been infected.

**Are there any side effects?**

Side effects can occur with any vaccination. They are usually mild to moderate and pass quickly. Serious side effects occur very rarely. In individual cases, for example, people have experienced a serious allergic reaction directly after the COVID-19 vaccination. In isolated cases, rare forms of thrombosis (especially cerebral vein or abdominal vein thrombosis as well as arterial thrombosis) in connection with a reduction in blood platelets have been observed within the first three weeks after vaccination with the Janssen vector vaccine. These events following vaccination with Janssen's vector vaccine were serious but occurred very rarely (in between 1 and 8 in every 1 million people). Besides that, there have so far been no noticeable problems with serious side effects. Such side effects would be expected to emerge within a few months of the vaccination. Experts are keeping a close eye on potential indications.

**What symptoms can occur after the vaccination?**

- The place on your arm where you received the injection can become inflamed, painful or swollen.
- Headaches
- Tiredness
- Muscle and joint pain
- Nausea
- General symptoms such as shivering, feeling feverish or a mild fever

These side effects are common after a vaccination. Since they indicate that the body is building up protection against the disease, they are a good sign when they are mild.

An allergic reaction is typically associated with severe swelling, redness, itching or shortness of breath immediately after the injection. Typical symptoms of thrombosis include small punctate haemorrhages or bruising on the skin (especially outside the injection site), shortness of breath, chest pain, swelling in the arms or legs, persistent abdominal pain, severe and persistent headaches or blurred vision. You should contact your doctor immediately if you experience such symptoms.

**How long can side effects last?**

The side effects usually disappear within a few days. If you are still experiencing side effects after a week, or if they get worse or cause you concern, contact your doctor.

**I am vaccinated. Can I infect other people with the coronavirus?**

Once you have been fully vaccinated and have received your booster, the likelihood of becoming infected is greatly reduced, as is the risk of transmitting the virus. However, the vaccination does not provide 100% protection and protection declines over time. The protection afforded by the vaccine and the speed with which it decreases can vary depending on the virus variant.

Please remember: Continue to follow the hygiene and social distancing rules, and wear a mask where this is required.

**Who pays for the vaccination?**

Your vaccination is free of charge for you. Your health insurer pays for part of the vaccination. The federal government and the cantons will pay the remainder.

**Is the vaccination voluntary?**

Yes. Vaccinations are voluntary in Switzerland.

**Where can I find further information?**

You will find further information on COVID-19 vaccination on the FOPH website:

[www.foph-coronavirus.ch/vaccination](http://www.foph-coronavirus.ch/vaccination)

Or you can ask your doctor or pharmacist.

