



EXPLANATORY FACTSHEET

Vaccination with the Janssen vector vaccine: Important information for patients

You will be vaccinated against COVID-19

Vaccination with the Janssen vector vaccine is explicitly recommended only for persons aged 18 or over who are unvaccinated and who either cannot be vaccinated with an mRNA vaccine or the Novavax protein-based vaccine for medical reasons or do not wish to receive such vaccines. A single dose of the Janssen vaccine is recommended.

This factsheet is intended to complement a consultation with a medical professional on your vaccination needs. Please read the information carefully before receiving the COVID-19 vaccination.

Information on the vaccination

- The Janssen vector vaccine provides less protection than the mRNA vaccines or the protein-based Novavax vaccine, and fewer data are available on the Janssen vaccine. The data which are available show that it offers less protection against the currently circulating Omicron virus variants than is provided by the other vaccines recommended.
- A booster vaccination with the Janssen vector vaccine is not approved for already vaccinated persons, and is also not recommended. We advise you to get your booster vaccination with a bivalent (i.e. variant-adapted) mRNA vaccine or with the protein-based Novavax vaccine if either of these is available¹. Which vaccine(s) you have previously received is of no importance here.

What side effects can the vaccination have?

- If side effects do occur, they are usually mild to moderate and last only a few days. Similar to other vaccinations, they usually take the form of reactions at the vaccination site (usually pain, but also redness and/or swelling) or more general symptoms (such as headache, fatigue, muscle or joint pain, nausea and/or a high temperature or fever).
- Severe allergic reactions to a component of the vaccine are very rare and usually occur within a few minutes of vaccination. The first signs here may include shortness of breath, a drop in blood pressure or a severe reaction at the vaccination site. Provided they are promptly identified, such severe allergic reactions can usually be treated effectively.

In a few very rare cases since the Janssen vector vaccine was approved, severe side effects have developed following vaccination. These have included rare forms of thrombosis combined with a low blood platelet count (thrombosis with thrombocytopenia syndrome, or TTS). These cases have been serious, but have occurred in only a very small number of instances (one to eight in every million vaccinations). You will find further information on these and other very rare serious side effects from the Janssen vaccine on the www.swissmedicinfo.ch website.

Recommendation: In the period from a few days to three weeks after the vaccination, you should contact your doctor immediately if:

- you notice any small dot-like haemorrhages or bruising on your skin (especially away from the vaccination site)
- you experience symptoms such as shortness of breath, chest pain, swelling in your arms or legs, persistent abdominal pain, severe and persistent headaches, seizures, a change in your mood or blurred vision.

Other health problems – unrelated to the vaccine – may continue to arise, sometimes directly after a vaccination. This does not mean that they are necessarily a consequence of the vaccination.

N.B. Please report any unexpected or serious symptoms you experience after a COVID-19 vaccination to a doctor, a pharmacist or the vaccination centre.

You should not get vaccinated with the Janssen vector vaccine if:

- you know that you suffer from hypersensitivity to components of the vaccine
 - you have had capillary leak syndrome (CLS)
 - you have had thrombosis with thrombocytopenia syndrome (TTS) after a previous COVID-19 vaccination.
- If you are prone to thromboembolisms and/or thrombocytopenia, please discuss your vaccination with your doctor in advance.

If you are pregnant or breastfeeding, or if you have a severely weakened immune system, you should get yourself vaccinated with an mRNA vaccine.

Vaccination with the Janssen vector vaccine is not recommended if:

- you are already vaccinated
- you are under 18
- you are pregnant or breastfeeding.

¹ Please note that this is a general recommendation. Some persons may be subject to specific recommendations. For example, the monovalent mRNA vaccine is recommended for persons with

severely weakened immune systems. For further information please consult your doctor.



Caution is advised with vaccination if:

- you are currently ill and have a high temperature.
- In this case, you should postpone the vaccination.
- you have previously had a severe allergic reaction or take blood-thinning medication.
- In both cases, you should inform the professional at the vaccination centre so that they can take special precautions.

Do you have any other questions? You can discuss these with the medical professional who is vaccinating you. This factsheet should not be regarded as an alternative to a consultation with a specialist on your vaccination needs.

Where can I make an appointment for a vaccination?

Your canton is responsible for the vaccinations. You will find information on how to make an appointment for a vaccination on the website of your home canton (foph-coronavirus.ch/cantons).

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

www.foph-coronavirus.ch/vaccination

