

COVID-19 Fact Sheet

Information for vaccine providers about storage, handling, and administration of Johnson & Johnson (Janssen) vaccine

A third COVID-19 vaccine product is now available as a new tool to offer protection against serious illness from COVID-19. The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) issued an emergency use authorization for the Johnson & Johnson (Janssen) single-dose vaccine for ages 18 and older. The vaccine proved safe and effective in adults during clinical trials and offers protection against hospitalizations and deaths from COVID-19.

This vaccine, which became available the week of March 1, will help accelerate vaccination of Ohioans and yield faster protection because it requires one dose instead of two and is known to reduce the risk of serious COVID-19 illness as soon as two weeks after vaccination. The vaccine can be stored in a standard refrigerator and is expected to be easier to distribute and transport than the other two COVID-19 vaccines.

How will the vaccines be distributed in Ohio?

While vaccine supply is limited, individuals receiving the COVID-19 vaccines are unlikely to be offered a choice of which vaccine they want to receive. The vaccine that is available at a particular vaccination site or clinic is the vaccine an individual will receive.

There will be limited supply of the Janssen vaccine in the short term as production ramps up. Weekly allocations may vary based on availability for the first few weeks.

All three vaccines have been proven safe and effective at preventing serious illness, hospitalization, and death from COVID-19 disease. Ohioans are encouraged to get vaccinated with the first vaccine available to them to help protect them from COVID-19.

Shipments

The vaccine is transported and stored at refrigerated temperatures (2 to 8 degrees Celsius or 36 to 46 degrees Fahrenheit).

The minimum shipment quantity is 100 doses of vaccine. The vaccine comes packaged as 20 multidose vials, with five doses per vial. The carton dimensions are 93 millimeters by 38 millimeters by 54 millimeters (approximately 3.66 inches by 1.50 inches by 2.13 inches). The expiration date is not on the vial. Providers must scan the QR code on the outer carton, call 1-800-565-4008, visit [vaxcheck](#), or **write the expiration date on the carton**. Providers will receive a 100-dose ancillary kit for each package of 100 vaccine doses, which are sent separately.

The vaccine is initially stored frozen by the manufacturer, then shipped at 2 C to 8 C (36 F to 46 F) to providers.

Storage and handling

Storage of unpunctured vials

- **Storage prior to first puncture of a vaccine vial**
 - Store **unpunctured** multi-dose vials of the Janssen COVID-19 vaccine at 2 C to 8 C or 36 F to 46 F.
 - Protect from light.
 - Do not store frozen.
 - Store at 2 C to 8 C or 36 F to 46 F for **up to three months**.
 - Unpunctured vials of Janssen COVID-19 vaccine may be stored between 9 C and 25 C or 47 F and 77 F **for up to 12 hours**.
 - If vaccine is still frozen upon receipt, thaw at 2 C to 8 C or 36 F to 46 F.
 - If needed immediately, thaw at room temperature (maximally 25 C/77 F).
 - At room temperature (maximally 25 C/77 F), a carton of 10 vials will take approximately two hours to thaw, and an individual vial will take approximately one hour to thaw.
 - Do not refreeze once thawed.

Storage of punctured vials

- **Storage after first puncture of a vaccine vial**
 - After the first dose has been withdrawn, mark the vial with date and time.
 - Protect from light.
 - Hold the vial between 2 C and 8 C or 36 F and 46 F **for up to six hours**.
 - Hold the vial at room temperature (maximally 25 C/77 F) **for up to two hours**.
 - Discard the vial if vaccine is not used within these times.

Dosing

The vaccine is administered intramuscularly as a single dose (0.5 mL). The vaccine should not be used to complete a vaccination series initiated with another COVID-19 vaccine.

Preparation and Administration

The Janssen COVID-19 vaccine is a colorless to slightly yellow, clear to very opalescent suspension. Vaccine is to be given intramuscularly, preferably to the deltoid muscle.

- Visually inspect the Janssen COVID-19 vaccine vials for particulate matter and discoloration prior to administration. If either of these conditions exists, do not administer the vaccine.
- No reconstitution is required at site
- **Before withdrawing each dose** of vaccine, carefully mix the contents of the multi-dose vial by **swirling gently in an upright position for 10 seconds**.
 - **Do not shake.**
- Each dose is 0.5 mL. Each multidose vial contains five doses.
- Do not pool excess vaccine from multiple vials to make an extra dose.
- Do not administer the vaccine to individuals with a known history of a severe allergic reaction (e.g., anaphylaxis) to any component of the vaccine.
- The Janssen COVID-19 vaccine does not contain a preservative.
- Record the date and time of first use on the Janssen COVID-19 vaccine vial label.
- After the first dose has been withdrawn:
 - Hold the vial between 2 C and 8 C or 36 F and 46 F **for up to six hours**.
 - Hold the vial at room temperature (maximally 25 C/77 F) **for up to two hours**.
 - Discard if vaccine is not used within these times.
- There are no expiration on vials; scan the QR code on the outer carton, call 1-800-565-4008, or visit [vaxcheck](https://vaxcheck.com).

Transportation

Janssen COVID-19 vaccine may be transported off site and to individual or homebound sites. All COVID-19 vaccines must use a continuous [temperature monitoring device](#) during storage, handling, and administration. Temperature logs are required for storage and for off-site and homebound sites.

- Care must be taken to ensure vaccine does not refreeze during transport.
- Vaccine should be transported in the carton in which it arrived whenever possible.
- If transport must be conducted at the vial level, the vial should be placed with dunnage (padding material, such as bubble wrap or similar padding) to minimize movement during transport.
 - Take measures to ensure that the thawed vaccine does not come into contact with any frozen packs added to maintain temperature.
- The vaccine should always be transported in insulated containers qualified to maintain temperatures of 2 C to 8 C (36 F to 46 F) for the duration of transport.
 - Examples of such containers include molded EPS foam shippers or hard plastic vacuum insulated shippers (e.g., Credo).
 - The transport container should be labeled prominently with warnings about temperature control and prevention of refreezing.
 - The transport containers must be secured when being transported to prevent unnecessary movement.
 - Upon arrival at the destination, Janssen COVID-19 vaccine should immediately be inspected, inventoried, and stored in a refrigerated unit, at 2 C to 8 C (36 F to 46 F).
 - Vaccine should only be transported once and should not be transported back again to the point of origin or to a new location.
 - Any set of cartons/vials should not be subjected to repeat instances of transport.
 - If a carton/vial has been on a transfer once, it should not be sent out again. Instead, it should be used locally, even if the vial has not been in transit for the maximum allowable period. This is a precautionary measure because it will be difficult to keep track of the transportation time “used up” for any specific vial.
 - Punctured vials may be transported when following [COVID-19 Vaccine Handling Toolkit](#).
 - Total time of up to six hours includes transportation time
 - Punctured vials may be transported from one home to another by the same healthcare professional if the cold chain is properly maintained. However, a partially used vial cannot be transferred from one provider to another, or across state lines.
 - Special circumstances may allow transport of vaccine-filled syringes, but providers must follow directions in the [COVID-19 Vaccine Handling Toolkit](#) and Temperature Monitoring Device must be used.
 - Protect from refreezing.
 - Protect from accidental dispensing of vaccine during transport.
 - Place syringes into a padded container for protection.
 - Syringes can be held at 2 C to 8 C or 36 F to 46 F **for up to six hours**.
 - **Includes transportation time.**
 - Syringes can be held at room temperature (maximally 25 C/77 F) **for up to two hours**.
 - **Includes transportation time.**
 - **Reminder: Have rescue medications on hand during homebound visits.**

Contact Janssen at: www.janssencovid19vaccine.com, U.S. toll free at **1-800-565-4008**, or U.S. toll at **908-455-9922**.

Read the [complete fact sheet for vaccine providers, including a list of ingredients](#).

Updated March 26, 2021.

For additional information, visit coronavirus.ohio.gov.

If you have any questions or issues, please call the ODH Provider Call Center between 8 a.m. – 7 p.m. Monday through Friday, and 8 a.m. – 5 p.m. Saturday and Sunday, at 1-844-9ODHVAX (1-844-963-4829) or email COVIDVACCINE@odh.ohio.gov.