

## COVID-19 Fact Sheet

# Information for vaccine providers about storage, handling and administration of 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 Biotech 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, available beginning 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 at least 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 continues to be scarce, 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 vials, with five doses per vial. The carton dimensions are 93 mm x 38 mm x 54 mm (approximately 3.66 inches x 3.66 inches x 2.13 inches). 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).

## **Storage and handling**

### **Storage of unpunctured vials**

If vaccine is still frozen upon receipt, thaw at 2°C to 8°C (36°F to 46°F). If needed immediately, thaw at room temperature (maximally 25°C/77°F). At room temperature (maximum 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.

Store unpunctured multi-dose vials at standard refrigerator temperatures of 2°C to 8°C (36°F to 46°F) and protect from light. Do not store frozen.

Unpunctured vials may be stored between 9°C to 25°C (47°F to 77°F) for up to 12 hours.

### **Storage after puncture of the vaccine vial**

After the first dose has been withdrawn, hold the vial between 2° to 8°C (36° to 46°F) for up to six hours or at room temperature (maximum 25°C/77°F) for up to two hours. Discard the vial if vaccine is not used within these times.

## **Dosing and administration**

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.

### **Dose preparation**

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 vial contains five doses. Do not pool excess vaccine from multiple vials.

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° to 8°C (36° to 46°F) for up to six hours or at room temperature (maximum 25°C/77°F) for up to two hours. Discard if vaccine is not used within these times.

### **Administration**

Do not administer if vaccine is discolored or contains particulate matter.

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.

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

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For additional information, visit [coronavirus.ohio.gov](https://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](mailto:COVIDVACCINE@odh.ohio.gov).*