

# Provider Memorandum

## What You Need to Know About the Johnson & Johnson COVID-19 Vaccine

Molina Healthcare of Illinois (Molina) continues to monitor developments related to Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19). With the Pfizer and Moderna vaccines available since December 2020—and only available to a small segment of the population to date—the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) issued an Emergency Use Authorization (EUA) for the Johnson & Johnson vaccine on February 27.

### What's Different About the Johnson & Johnson Vaccine

Both the Pfizer and Moderna vaccines use an mRNA delivery system, while the Johnson & Johnson vaccine uses disabled adenovirus to trigger an immune response. None of the vaccines use live virus. All three vaccines have been shown to be very effective at reducing hospitalization and moderate/severe disease. Additionally, both Pfizer and Moderna require two doses for maximum efficacy, while Johnson & Johnson requires one dose.

### Johnson & Johnson Vaccine Facts

- Single dose of a disabled adenovirus used as a delivery system to instruct the cells to make copies of the COVID-19 spike protein, thus creating antibodies against it.
- For adults ages 18 and older; however insufficient information for people over age 75.
- No special storage required—ordinary refrigeration for up to three months.
- Few and generally mild side effects (similar to the other vaccines), including pain at the injection site, headache, fatigue, and muscle aches.
- May be less prone to severe allergic reactions (at the time of this writing, only two anaphylactoid reactions).
- Clinical trial included the newer variants of the coronavirus.
- Demonstrated to be 85% protective against severe and critical disease.
- No deaths or hospitalizations in anyone who received the vaccine.

### Temperature and Storage

The Johnson & Johnson COVID-19 single-dose vaccine is compatible with standard vaccine storage and distribution channels with ease of delivery to remote areas. The vaccine is estimated to remain stable for two years at -4°F, and a maximum of three months at routine refrigeration at temperatures of 36°F to 46°F. The company will ship the vaccine using cold-chain technologies. The COVID-19 vaccine should **not** be refrozen if distributed at temperatures of 36°F to 46°F.

Johnson & Johnson has committed to shipping 20 million doses in March, and 100 million doses by the end of June. The U.S. government will manage allocation and distribution of the vaccine in the United States.

As with the Pfizer and Moderna vaccines, distribution will be prioritized according to the populations identified by the CDC's Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) guidelines.

### **Where to Reference Additional Details**

- Molina's [COVID-19 FAQ document](#).
- Provider memo [You Can Become a COVID-19 Vaccine Provider](#).
- Provider memo [What Providers Need to Know About the COVID-19 Vaccine and Distribution](#).
- The [COVID-19 page](#) of the Molina provider website.

Vaccine distribution is an ongoing and dynamic situation; we sourced the most up-to-date information possible. Critical updates will be shared as appropriate.

### **Questions?**

We're here to help. Contact your Provider Network Manager or email the Provider Network Management team at [MHILProviderNetworkManagement@MolinaHealthcare.com](mailto:MHILProviderNetworkManagement@MolinaHealthcare.com). For help identifying your Provider Network Manager, visit [Molina's Service Area](#) page at [MolinaHealthcare.com](http://MolinaHealthcare.com).

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**Note:** Molina's website and documents are best viewed in Google Chrome or Microsoft Edge.

#### **Sources:**

- JAMA: [jamanetwork.com/journals/jama/fullarticle/2777172](http://jamanetwork.com/journals/jama/fullarticle/2777172)
- Johnson & Johnson: [jnj.com/johnson-johnson-covid-19-vaccine-authorized-by-u-s-fda-for-emergency-usefirst-single-shot-vaccine-in-fight-against-global-pandemic](http://jnj.com/johnson-johnson-covid-19-vaccine-authorized-by-u-s-fda-for-emergency-usefirst-single-shot-vaccine-in-fight-against-global-pandemic)