

Why was use of the Johnson & Johnson vaccine paused?

Reported cases of a rare type blood clot in certain people who recently got the Johnson & Johnson vaccine led to the pause.

- On April 13, the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and Federal Drug Administration (FDA), who oversee vaccines, recommended a temporary pause in use of the Johnson & Johnson vaccine. The reason was reported cases of abnormal blood clotting with low platelet counts (thrombosis with thrombocytopenia syndrome, or TTS) in people who received this vaccine.
- During the pause, the CDC and FDA thoroughly reviewed all reported TTS cases and other data on the Johnson & Johnson vaccine.
- On April 23, the CDC and FDA lifted the pause on the vaccine.

Is the Johnson & Johnson vaccine safe?

Yes, the Johnson & Johnson vaccine was determined to be safe after an in-depth review. However, it may be more dangerous for some people.

- The pause on the vaccine was lifted because, after reviewing the data, the CDC and FDA felt the vaccines known and potential benefits outweigh the known and potential risks. The main benefits of the vaccine are how well it prevents COVID-19 related illness, hospitalization, and death.
- As of April 30, there have been 17 cases of TTS, out of the over 8 million people who have gotten this vaccine. All known cases of TTS have occurred in women and most were in women 18-49 years of age.
- TTS is extremely rare in all age groups and genders. However, it may cause severe issues, and even death.

Can I choose to get a different type of vaccine?

Women ages 18-49, who are most at risk for TTS, may choose to get a different COVID-19 vaccine.

- We encourage everyone to get the vaccine that is available to them first.
- However, if you are a woman under 50 years old, you have the option to receive one of the other COVID-19 vaccines.
- You can still choose to get the Johnson & Johnson vaccine if you prefer.
- There are two other vaccines available – from Pfizer and Moderna –that are very effective and safe, and have caused no cases of TTS. Both require two shots, three to four weeks apart, instead of one shot for the Johnson & Johnson vaccine.