About this Vaccine
This vaccine has been authorized by the FDA for emergency use given the severity of the COVID-19 pandemic and has Emergency Use Authorization for people ages 18 and older. This vaccine is a single dose injected into the muscle.

When You Should Consider this Vaccine
- Some individuals are not able to take an mRNA COVID-19 vaccine (for example, some people may have had a severe allergic reaction after a previous dose).
- Some individuals may prefer the Johnson & Johnson COVID-19 vaccine.
- We recommend these individuals discuss COVID-19 vaccination options with a medical provider.

What to Expect When You Get the Vaccine
You may have some side effects, which are normal signs that your body is building protection. Side effects may include pain or swelling at the injection site, headache, fatigue, muscle aches, nausea, or fever. Side effects should go away within a few days.

Risks Associated with this Vaccine
There are benefits and risks to getting the Johnson & Johnson COVID-19 vaccine, and the benefits of getting vaccinated outweigh the risks. Risks include:

- Blood Clots: There have been rare occurrences of blood clots (involving blood vessels in the brain, abdomen, and legs) as well as low levels of blood cells that help your body stop bleeding, in some people who have received the Johnson & Johnson COVID-19 vaccine. In people who developed these blood clots, symptoms began approximately 1–2 weeks after vaccination in males and females, across a wide age range of individuals 18 years and older; reporting has been highest for females ages 30 to 49 years old. For one to two weeks after receiving the vaccine, be on the lookout for shortness of breath, chest pain, leg swelling, persistent abdominal pain, severe headaches or blurred vision, easy bruising, or tiny blood spots under the skin beyond the site of the injection. Seek medical attention if you have any of these symptoms. To date, these rare blood clots have not been associated with the Pfizer or Moderna COVID-19 vaccines.
- Rare Severe Allergic Reaction: There is a remote chance the vaccine could cause a severe allergic reaction (difficulty breathing, swelling of face and throat, fast heartbeat, bad rash all over your body, dizziness, weakness), which would usually occur a few minutes to one hour after getting the dose. If you experience a severe allergic reaction, call 9-1-1, or got to the nearest hospital.

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If You Experience Side Effects
If you experience a severe allergic reaction, call 9-1-1, or go to the nearest hospital. Call the vaccination provider or your healthcare provider if you have any side effects that bother you or do not go away.

Boosters
All those age 18 and older who received the Johnson & Johnson COVID-19 vaccine should receive a booster dose of COVID-19 vaccine two months after their initial dose. An mRNA COVID-19 vaccine (Pfizer or Moderna) is preferred over the Johnson & Johnson COVID-19 vaccine for booster vaccination. Additional information is available on the CDPH COVID-19 Booster website.

More Information

• Rare Guillain-Barre Syndrome: There have been rare cases of Guillain-Barre Syndrome after receiving the Johnson & Johnson COVID-19 vaccines. Guillain-Barre is an illness, usually triggered by an infection, in which the body's immune system damages nerve cells, causing muscle weaknesses, or in the most severe cases, paralysis. Cases of Guillain-Barre Syndrome have largely been reported about 2 weeks after vaccination with Johnson & Johnson COVID-19 vaccine and mostly in males, many aged 50 years and older. You should seek medical attention if you experience weakness or tingling sensations in both legs, which may spread to the arms and upper body.