

# Getting the **Johnson & Johnson** COVID-19 Vaccine

Because the COVID-19 vaccine is new, you may have some questions about what to expect before, during, and after you get the vaccine (shot). Use this handout to learn more and talk with a CHN doctor or nurse if you have more questions.

## **What to expect:**

### **Before you get the vaccine:**

- Talk with a CHN doctor or nurse to see if a COVID-19 vaccine is recommended for you right now.
- If you have questions about the vaccine, please ask us!  
**We are here to help.**



### **When you get the vaccine:**

- A CHN doctor or nurse will give you:
  - A handout that explains which COVID-19 vaccine you are getting.
  - A consent form. The information that you provide on this form, such as your age and date of birth, will be reported to NYC Department of Health's Citywide Immunization Registry.
- You will get the shot in your upper arm.

### **After you get the vaccine:**

- As we learn more about how the vaccine works in the real world, it's important that you continue to protect yourself and others from COVID-19 by:
  - Wearing a mask that covers your nose and mouth when you are in public.
  - Staying at least 6 feet away from others.
  - Washing your hands often.
  - Staying away from crowds.

## **Are there any side effects from the vaccine?**

- **You may have some side effects after you get the vaccine.** These side effects are signs that your body is building up protection against COVID-19. You may feel like you have the flu, but the side effects should go away after just a few days.



### Common side effects include:

- Muscle aches
- Fever
- Pain, redness, or swelling where you got the shot
- Headache
- Feeling very tired
- Nausea

### \*Signs of a serious allergic reaction include:

- Bad rash all over your body
- Dizziness
- Weakness
- Trouble breathing
- Swelling of face or throat
- Fast heartbeat

**\*There is a small chance that the vaccine could cause a serious allergic reaction.** These reactions can happen within a few minutes to one hour after getting the vaccine. For this reason, a CHN doctor or nurse may ask you to stay at the center for a period of time after to make sure you don't have a reaction.

**Important Safety Information:** There is a possible link between the Johnson & Johnson vaccine and a very rare and serious type of blood clot. **Seek medical care right away if you have one or more of these symptoms 3 weeks after getting the vaccine:**



- Severe or persistent headaches (headaches that don't go away), blurred eyesight, shortness of breath, chest pain, leg swelling, stomach pain, and easy bruising or tiny blood spots under the skin beyond the area where you got the shot.

## Who should I contact if I have side effects?

- Talk with a CHN doctor or nurse about any side effects you have after getting the vaccine.
- The CDC has set up tools for you to report your side effects and other information about your experience after getting the vaccine. These tools help to them to look at the safety of this vaccine in real-time.

**V-safe is a tool you can use on your smartphone to report any side effects.** When you sign up for V-safe, it will ask you to enter your phone number. This is so you can receive text messages with health check-ins to see how you are doing after getting the vaccine. Any personal information you enter into V-safe will be protected.

- **V-safe is a voluntary tool. It is your choice if you would like to sign up.** If you decide not to use V-Safe, let a CHN doctor or nurse know right away if you have any serious side effects after getting the vaccine.
- Patients and providers can also use the **Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System (VAERS)** to report side effects. Learn more at [vaers.hhs.gov/reportevent.html](https://vaers.hhs.gov/reportevent.html)



Go to [www.cdc.gov/vsafe](https://www.cdc.gov/vsafe) or use the **QR code** with your smartphone to learn more.