

[WATCH] Test your knowledge: The J&J COVID jab — SCRIPT

South Africa has [secured 31-million doses](#) of Johnson & Johnson's COVID vaccine.

The first 3-million doses are expected to arrive between April and June.

This jab only requires one shot.

So each dose will fully vaccinate one person and no one has to return to a vaccination site to get a second jab.

How can it be stored?

The jab can be [kept frozen at -20 °C](#) for up to two years.

Or it can be defrosted and kept in a refrigerator between 2 to 8 °C for up to three months.

Once the jab has been thawed, it cannot be refrozen.

How are the vaccines prepared?

The Johnson & Johnson shots are transported frozen.

The jabs are then distributed to the vaccination sites where they can be thawed and stored in fridges.

A carton of 10 vials will take [about 2 hours to thaw](#), and an individual vial will take around 1 hour.

Each vial that will arrive from Johnson & Johnson contains [five doses](#).

At the sites, [the vaccines are prepared](#) and drawn up into syringes under the supervision of trained pharmacists.

What are the potential side effects?

[Common side effects](#) of the jab include headaches, feeling tired, nausea and fever.

On rare occasions, people may experience a severe allergic reaction to the jab. This will normally occur within an hour after getting the shot.

The Johnson & Johnson vaccine [was](#) reviewed by the US medical regulatory body, the Food and Drug Administration, for a potential link to unusual blood clots. They recommended that the use of the jab continue.

South Africa's regulatory body [completed its own review](#) of the jab and has recommended that its use in the country be continued with some conditions.

These conditions include screening people who are at high risk of a blood clotting disorder and measures to better monitor people after vaccination to ensure the safety of people who develop an adverse reaction to the jab.

Both AstraZeneca and Johnson & Johnson's vaccines — which use the same delivery method — [have reported a small number of people receiving the shot developing an autoimmune disorder called Guillain-Barré Syndrome](#).

Guillain-Barré Syndrome is a rare disorder that causes muscle weakness, pain, numbness or paralysis (depending on the severity of the case). Most people make a full recovery.

The jab's side effects have been updated to reflect this possible increased risk for Guillain-Barré Syndrome post-vaccination.

Anyone who has received the Johnson & Johnson vaccine should seek medical care if they begin feeling any tingling or experience paralysis in their hands, feet or face.