

COVID-19 Update

March 11: Johnson & Johnson Vaccine, Patient Vaccine Toolkit and NM Symptom Check App Update

Today's issue features information about the new Johnson & Johnson vaccine. It also includes an overview of the new Patient Vaccine Toolkit and updates to the NM Symptom Check App.

JOHNSON & JOHNSON VACCINE EUA

The Food and Drug Administration has issued Emergency Use Authorization (EUA) to permit the use of the Johnson & Johnson COVID-19 vaccine for people ages 18 and older. This single-dose vaccine was developed from a replication-incompetent adenovirus 26 vector that expresses a stabilized spike protein.

In a phase 3 clinical trial of more than 40,000 participants, the Johnson & Johnson vaccine had 66.9% efficacy in preventing moderate to severe COVID-19 compared to placebo, starting 14 days following vaccination. Efficacy against severe COVID-19 was 77% at 14 days post-vaccination and 84% at 28 days. In Brazil, where the P.2 variant was the prevalent circulating strain during the study period, the overall efficacy was 66%. There were no significant differences in efficacy or safety between younger and older participants.

Overall, the vaccine was well-tolerated with mild symptoms. Commonly reported side effects included injection site pain (49%), headache (39%), fatigue (38%), myalgia (33%), nausea (14%) and fever (9%). Side effects are more common in those 59 years of age and younger compared with older adults. Serious adverse event rates were similar between the vaccine and placebo groups, with numbers of events too small to determine causality. The only contraindication to vaccination is severe allergic reaction (anaphylaxis) to any component of the vaccine.

Johnson & Johnson already has released millions of doses. With manufacturing assistance from Merck, the company aims to deliver 100 million doses by June. This is the third COVID-19 vaccine authorized for use in the U.S.

NM has not yet received a supply of this vaccine, but preparations for distribution are in development. For more vaccine information and resources, please visit the [Vaccine and Treatment Resources page on Physician Forum](#) and the [Patient Vaccine Toolkit page on NMI](#) (login required).

PATIENT VACCINE TOOLKIT

NM has launched a new **Patient Vaccine Toolkit** on both Physician Forum and **NM Interactive** (login required) to serve as a single resource hub for all patient vaccination information, tools and tip sheets. The new page within the COVID-19 section provides:

- Established patient criteria for NM patients who receive invitations to schedule their vaccines
- Patient vaccination numbers
- Scheduling overview to assist patients with scheduling vaccine appointments
- Pre-approved replies to patient emails to assist in addressing patient questions
- Dot phrases for MyNM replies to patient questions
- Tip sheets for patients, including MyNM instructions and vaccine education
- Tip sheets for physicians and staff, including eligible patient reports

To learn more and access all NM patient vaccination tools and resources, please visit the new **Patient Vaccine Toolkit on Physician Forum** and the **Patient Vaccine Toolkit on NMI** (login required).


NEW NM SYMPTOM CHECK FEATURES

An update to the NM Symptom Check went live this week. The new version automatically incorporates physician and employee vaccination status, and asks the appropriate screening questions based on that status. If no vaccination information is on file, physicians and employees will still need to answer questions indicating if they are partially or fully vaccinated prior to completing the symptom screening.

Remember, all physicians and employees must continue to complete the NM Symptom Check process prior to entering an NM facility. You can do this on the NM Workforce app on your mobile device or by visiting nmsymptomcheck.nm.org. Information provided by the NM Symptom Check is used to ensure a safe environment for patients, physicians and employees, and it will help determine return-to-office policies across the health system.

For more information and resources about the NM Symptom Check process, please visit the **NM Workforce App page on Physician Forum** or the **NM Workforce App page on NMI** (login required).

Thank you for your continued commitment to our *Patients First* mission and for encouraging your patients to get vaccinated.



Gary A. Noskin, MD
Senior Vice President, Quality
Northwestern Memorial HealthCare
Chief Medical Officer
Northwestern Memorial Hospital