

March 1, 2021 –J&J Janssen COVID-19 Vaccine Disposal Guidance (Brookfield, WI – March 1, 2021) PharmEcology Services, WM Sustainability Services

What do we know about the vaccine?

The ingredients¹ of the Janssen COVID-19 Vaccine are not inherently hazardous in terms of either biohazardous risk or EPA RCRA hazardous waste designations. Janssen COVID-19 Vaccine **does not contain a preservative**. The vial stoppers are not made with natural rubber latex.

Each 0.5 mL dose of Janssen COVID-19 Vaccine is formulated to contain 5×10^{10} virus particles (VP) and the following inactive ingredients: citric acid monohydrate (0.14 mg), trisodium citrate dihydrate (2.02 mg), ethanol (2.04 mg), 2-hydroxypropyl- β -cyclodextrin (HBCD) (25.50 mg), polysorbate-80 (0.16 mg), sodium chloride (2.19 mg). Each dose may also contain residual amounts of host cell proteins (≤ 0.15 mcg) and/or host cell DNA (≤ 3 ng). The ingredients **do not include preservatives**.

The vaccine consists of a replication-incompetent recombinant adenovirus type 26 (Ad26) vector expressing the severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus-2 (SARS-CoV-2) spike (S) protein in a stabilized conformation. This means the vaccine cannot cause an infection of any type but uses the inactive viral vector to enter the cell which stimulates the cell to create the spike protein on the cell's surface which stimulates the immune system to create antibodies against the virus. The vaccine cannot "give you" COVID-19 although the body's reaction when creating antibodies may cause the person to feel sick for a couple of days.

How should full or partial vaccine vials be discarded?

PharmEcology recommendation: Disposal to a non-hazardous pharmaceutical waste container is ideal. Secondly, a hazardous waste pharmaceutical container is appropriate should a non-hazardous pharmaceutical waste container be inaccessible. **Also check with your healthcare system emergency preparedness group for specific directions to assure operational conformity to policies and procedures.**

J&J Janssen recommendation: None

How should empty vaccine vials be discarded?

PharmEcology recommendation: While empty vials (where the vaccine has been removed to the extent possible using normal practices) could be acceptable in your solid waste stream (trash), please verify with your solid waste service provider. **Also check with your healthcare system emergency preparedness group for specific directions to assure operational conformity to policies and procedures.**

¹ <https://www.modernatx.com/covid19vaccine-eua/eua-fact-sheet-providers.pdf>

J&J Janssen recommendation: None

How should syringes with needles used to administer the vaccine be disposed?

The empty syringe with needle should be disposed in a biohazardous sharps container and managed appropriately through autoclaving, incineration, or chemical treatment.

Why are the disposal instructions less complicated than with the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine?

The J&J Janssen vaccine only needs to be kept at refrigerator temperatures, rather than the ultra cold temperatures required by the Pfizer vaccine. This eliminates the need for the return of the packaging contents and the disposal of dry ice.

Additional information:

<https://www.janssenlabels.com/emergency-use-authorization/Janssen+COVID-19+Vaccine-HCP-fact-sheet.pdf>

For more information on compliant disposal of Rx and OTC drugs, contact us today at 877-247-7430 or info@pharmecology.com.