**Johnson & Johnson COVID-19 Vaccine**

**Patient Talking Points**

**March 2, 2021**

* Mass General Brigham will begin administering the Johnson & Johnson vaccine effective March 4.
* The Johnson & Johnson (J&J) vaccine has been authorized for use by the Food and Drug Administration and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Its approval is the latest step forward in the effort to vaccinate our patients and the public.
* Some patients have asked if they can choose which vaccine that they get now that there are three available vaccines.
* Patients cannot choose which vaccine they get.
* Patients will get whatever vaccine is available on the day of their appointment.
* Mass General Brigham is not able to give specific vaccines to patients or certain populations.
* However, patients should be assured that all three authorized vaccines have proven to be safe and highly effective. Additionally, there have been no serious adverse reactions associated with any of the vaccines.
* Those who receive J&J vaccine should have every confidence that they are protected against serious illness due to COVID-19 and its variants. It has proven to be:
  + 85% effective in preventing serious illness from COVID-19
  + 100% effective in preventing COVID-19 hospitalization and death from COVID-19. In fact, there have been zero people hospitalized and zero deaths among vaccinated individuals.
* The J&J vaccine was also shown to be effective against the new COVID-19 variants, with research on the J&J vaccine conducted in countries with these more infectious variants including South Africa and Brazil.
* The J&J vaccine requires only a single shot at this point. Patients given the J&J vaccine don’t need to make a second appointment to return three or four weeks later for a second shot.

**Possible Questions and Answers:**

**Will you choose which vaccine to give to patients based on their age, conditions, or other risk factors?**

Mass General Brigham cannot personalize which vaccine (Pfizer, Moderna, or Johnson & Johnson) patients get unless that patient has a documented allergy. Our vaccine supply is provided by the state and federal government and we do not choose which vaccines we get in our distribution. Mass General Brigham clinical experts have full confidence in the Pfizer, Moderna, and Johnson & Johnson vaccines.

**How can I find out which vaccine I will be receiving at my upcoming vaccination appointment?**

Mass General Brigham does not post which vaccine will be offered at which locations. Our vaccine supply is provided by the state and federal government and we do not choose which vaccines we get in our distribution. The best vaccine is the one that is available to you on the day of your appointment. All vaccine options available to our patients are safe and highly effective.

**Is the new Johnson & Johnson vaccine as effective at protecting against COVID-19 as the other vaccine options?**

All vaccine options available to our patients are safe and highly effective. The Johnson & Johnson vaccine is 85% effective against severe COVID-19 disease, according to studies. It also provides 100% protection against hospitalization and death from COVID-19. In fact, there have been zero people hospitalized and zero deaths among individuals vaccinated with the Johnson & Johnson vaccine.

**I have a preference for a specific vaccine. Can I wait until you have more of that vaccine or move my appointment to a different time?**

No. We cannot make appointments for specific vaccines. All three of the approved COVID-19 vaccines (Pfizer, Moderna, and J&J) are safe and highly effective. The best vaccine is the one that is available to you at the time of your appointment.