

March 6, 2021

**Comments from NEMSN's Medical Advisory Panel on the Safety of the New
Johnson & Johnson Covid-19 Vaccine**

There are no specific safety concerns with the new Johnson & Johnson Covid-19 vaccine. It appears to be very safe based on the over 22,000 adult volunteers vaccinated in the phase 3 trial. Johnson & Johnson uses the same technology in their Covid-19 vaccine as they have used in the currently licensed Ebola vaccine. The Ebola vaccine has been tested in thousands of additional people, including children. No safety concerns with this type of vaccine.

The Johnson & Johnson Covid-19 vaccine uses a different technology (viral vector) from the mRNA vaccines of Pfizer and Moderna, but both types of vaccines deliver the spike protein genetic "code" (using different strategies) so cells can produce the protein that generates an immune response.

The Johnson & Johnson vaccine will be monitored closely for any safety signals as it is rolled out in the coming weeks and months. Short term side effects (fatigue, headache, muscle aches, etc.) are common, mostly mild, and generally resolve in 1-2 days.