




STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS
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April 13, 2021

TO: All DOC Staff

FROM: Dan Johnson, Assistant Secretary, Health Services


Sara Kariko, Chief Medical Officer

SUBJECT: J&J COVID-19 Vaccine Administration Paused

The Department of Corrections Health Services has paused administration of the Johnson & Johnson/Janssen (J&J) vaccine based on the following message received from the Centers of Disease Control and Federal Drug Administration, as posted below, regarding a very rare, potential impact of the J&J vaccine. This pause is being taken out of an abundance of caution, as safety is the highest priority.

If you received the J&J vaccine in the last two weeks and are experiencing any of the symptoms noted below, please contact your medical provider. Please note that the Department of Corrections takes the health and safety of staff and incarcerated individuals very seriously and the vaccine team is closely monitoring this situation as it evolves, in coordination with the Washington State Department of Health, and will continue to keep you apprised as more information is available.

As Shared from the CDC and FDA. As the Department of Health learns more information, we will continue to share it out.

Joint CDC and FDA Statement on Johnson & Johnson COVID-19 Vaccine

The following statement is attributed to Dr. Anne Schuchat, Principal Deputy Director of the CDC and Dr. Peter Marks, director of the FDA's Center for Biologics Evaluation and Research

As of April 12, more than 6.8 million doses of the Johnson & Johnson (Janssen) vaccine have been administered in the U.S. CDC and FDA are reviewing data involving six reported U.S. cases of a rare and severe type of blood clot in individuals after receiving the J&J vaccine. In these cases, a type of blood clot called cerebral venous sinus thrombosis (CVST) was seen in combination with low levels of blood platelets (thrombocytopenia). All six cases occurred among women between the ages of 18 and 48, and symptoms occurred 6 to 13 days after vaccination. Treatment of this specific type of blood clot is different from the treatment that might typically be administered. Usually, an anticoagulant drug called heparin is used to treat blood clots. In this setting, administration of heparin may be dangerous, and alternative treatments need to be given.

CDC will convene a meeting of the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) on Wednesday to further review these cases and assess their potential significance. FDA will review that analysis as it also investigates these cases. Until that process is complete, we are recommending a pause in the use of this vaccine out of an abundance of caution. This is important, in part, to ensure that the health care provider community is aware of the potential for these adverse events and can plan for proper recognition and management due to the unique treatment required with this type of blood clot.

"Working Together for SAFER Communities"

Right now, these adverse events appear to be extremely rare. COVID-19 vaccine safety is a top priority for the federal government, and we take all reports of health problems following COVID-19 vaccination very seriously. People who have received the J&J vaccine who develop severe headache, abdominal pain, leg pain, or shortness of breath within three weeks after vaccination should contact their health care provider. Health care providers are asked to report adverse events to the Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System at <https://vaers.hhs.gov/reportevent.html>. CDC and FDA will provide additional information and answer questions later today at a media briefing. A recording of that media call will be available on the FDA's YouTube channel.