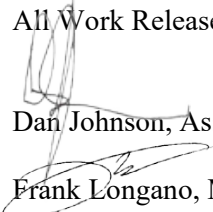




STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS
P.O. Box 41100 • Olympia, Washington 98504-1100

April 27, 2021

TO: All Incarcerated Individuals
All Work Release Residents

FROM: Dan Johnson, Assistant Secretary, Health Services

Frank Longano, MD, Deputy Chief Medical Officer

SUBJECT: Resuming Use of J&J for COVID-19 Vaccine Administration

On April 13, 2021 the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and Federal Drug Administration (FDA) paused the use of the Johnson and Johnson (J&J) COVID-19 vaccine in the United States in response to detection of cases of a rare type of blood clot in 6 vaccine recipients. Since that time out of approximately 8 million people who have received the vaccine in the United States, the CDC has reported a total of 16 cases, 15 of these were women ages 18 to 59, 1 was a man in his 30s.

During the pause vaccine experts at the CDC and FDA investigated these cases and conducted a thorough safety review of the vaccine. After that review the CDC determined that the known benefits of the J&J vaccine exceed these rare risks. As a result, on April 23, 2021, CDC voted to resume the use of J&J vaccine use in people ages 18 and over. Additionally, on April 24, 2021, the Western States Scientific Safety Review Workgroup, which includes vaccine experts from Washington and other western states, also recommended ending the pause and resuming use of the J&J vaccine, **resulting in Washington State Department of Health's (DOH) approval to resume use of J&J statewide, effective April 24th.**

We know that vaccination against COVID-19 prevents severe illness, hospitalization, and death from the disease. Cases of COVID-19 are continuing to rise in Washington and the United States, and the Washington State Department of Health notes evidence that younger and healthier people are being hospitalized for severe COVID-19 than during previous surges. We continue to strongly recommend that all DOC employees and incarcerated individuals are vaccinated.

Please note, although **J&J is a safe and effective vaccine option**, if you are concerned about this side effect of the J&J vaccine you may consider receiving the Moderna COVID-19 vaccine instead, which is also available to Washington State Department of Corrections staff and incarcerated individuals. The Moderna vaccine has also been shown to be extremely effective at preventing symptomatic COVID-19 disease and **has not been associated with this side effect.**