



**Health Advisory #26:
Vaccine Hesitancy and Janssens COVID-19 Vaccine Update
April 30, 2021**

Please distribute to all providers in the facility

Go to www.co.shasta.ca.us/ready/covid-19/professionals for an electronic version of this Health Advisory

FOR SHASTA COUNTY PROVIDERS ONLY

The purpose of this advisory is to provide health care providers with:

- Assistance in addressing vaccine hesitancy
- An update on the use of Janssens COVID-19 vaccine

Addressing vaccine hesitancy

Upwards of 40,000 Shasta County residents are hesitating to get their COVID-19 vaccinations, and we have one of the state's lowest vaccination rates. Because 85% of people say their most trusted source of medical information is their own healthcare provider, we hope you will encourage your patients to get the vaccine. For your convenience, we have drafted some conversation starters. Thank you for helping us ensure that our community is protected.

- This pandemic has been stressful for all of us, and getting vaccinated is the most important thing we can do to move back toward normal activities.
- I strongly recommend that you get a COVID-19 vaccine.
- (If applicable:) I got the vaccine as soon as I could, and I made sure my family did, too. I got vaccinated because.... My experience with the vaccine was....
- There are three vaccines that are authorized for use – Moderna, Pfizer, and Johnson & Johnson. All of these are very effective at preventing COVID, especially severe illness, and safe to use.
 - **If needed:** The Johnson & Johnson vaccine was paused due to 15 cases of a rare blood clotting problem. Most people who had this problem were women under age 50.
 - This problem was found in 2 cases per 1,000,000. In comparison, the risk of death for people who have COVID is 1 in 56.
 - The FDA and CDC studied the problem and decided that this vaccine is still safe.
 - The two other COVID-19 vaccines, Moderna and Pfizer, do not carry the risk for this side effect.
 - This “pause” shows that the vaccine safety system is working.
 - (Any other information that you feel is important for your patients.)
- It is normal to have questions. What questions can I answer for you about the vaccine to help you make your decision?
- Supply used to be really limited, but now it's easy to make an appointment. Just go to myturn.ca.gov and follow the instructions.
- You might feel tired or have other mild symptoms, like a headache, after your vaccine. That is normal, and it shows your immune system is doing its job. If you have side effects that worry you, please give me a call.
- I encourage you to sign up for VSafe after your vaccine. This is an app that checks in with you for a few days after the vaccine to see how you're feeling.



Johnson & Johnson Update

Following the April 13 “pause” of the Johnson & Johnson/Janssen (J&J) COVID-19 vaccine, the CDC and FDA gathered additional data to assess the risk of thrombosis with thrombocytopenia syndrome (TTS). TTS is a serious, potentially life-threatening illness involving the formation of thrombosis in blood vessels in the brain (i.e. cerebral venous sinuses) or blood vessels at other body sites (i.e., splanchnic and portal veins) in conjunction with thrombocytopenia.

On Friday, April 23, the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) concluded that the risk of developing the rare but serious clotting disorder is extremely low, and the potential benefits of the J&J vaccine were significant. CDC data reviewed included 15 confirmed cases of TTS, with symptom onset occurring between 1-2 weeks after vaccination. The 15 cases, all females, occurred among nearly 8 million total doses of J&J vaccine administered in the US, which translates to a risk less than 2 cases per million doses overall, and 7 cases per million doses among women between 18 and 49 years of age. The highest risk was among women 30-39 years (11.8 per million). By comparison, the risk of death in the U.S. for individuals confirmed to have COVID-19 is 1 in 56. TTS has not been seen with the mRNA vaccines.

ACIP also emphasized the importance of making information available on the risk of TTS, especially in women < 50 years, as well as the availability of alternative COVID-19 vaccines. The CDC and FDA accepted the ACIP recommendations to lift the pause on the J&J COVID-19 vaccine.

Here are some messages to share with your patients. We have also provided these in a separate document so you can provide them to patients if you wish.

- The Johnson & Johnson vaccine was paused due to 15 cases of a rare blood clotting problem. Most people who had this problem were women under age 50.
- This problem was found in 2 cases per 1,000,000. In comparison, the risk of death for people who have COVID is 1 in 56.
- The FDA and CDC studied the problem and decided that this vaccine is still safe.
- The two other COVID-19 vaccines, Moderna and Pfizer, do not carry the risk for this side effect.
- This “pause” shows that the vaccine safety system is working.
- (Any other information that you feel is important for your patients.)

Resources:

[ACIP April 23, 2021 Presentation Slides | Immunization Practices | CDC](#)

FDA EUA Fact Sheets:

[Janssen COVID-19 Vaccine EUA Fact Sheet for Recipients and Caregivers 04232021 \(fda.gov\)](#)

[Janssen COVID-19 Vaccine EUA Fact Sheet for Healthcare Providers \(fda.gov\)](#)

CDPH [Johnson & Johnson COVID-19 Vaccine Risks and Benefits \(ca.gov\)](#)

COCA slides and [Webinar April 27, 2021 - Johnson & Johnson/Janssen COVID-19 Vaccine and Thrombosis with Thrombocytopenia Syndrome \(TTS\): Update for Clinicians \(cdc.gov\)](#)