



DEPARTMENT OF
HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Promoting and protecting health, well-being, self-sufficiency, and safety of all in Marin County.

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Public Health Advisory

Background

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On February 27, 2021, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration issued an emergency use authorization (EUA) for the third vaccine for the prevention of coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19), [Janssen](#). Today, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) have [recommended](#) a temporary pause in the use of Johnson & Johnson vaccine out of an abundance of caution. They are reviewing data involving six U.S. cases of a rare type of blood clot in individuals after receiving the J&J COVID-19 vaccine that were reported to the Vaccine Adverse Events Reporting System (VAERS).

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In these cases, cerebral venous sinus thrombosis (CVST) was seen in combination with thrombocytopenia. All six cases occurred among women aged 18–48 years six to thirteen days after receipt of the vaccine. There was one reported death.

Actions Requested of Providers

- Review the full CDC Health Alert at the following link: <https://emergency.cdc.gov/han/2021/han00442.asp>
- Providers should maintain a high index of suspicion for symptoms that might represent serious thrombotic events or thrombocytopenia in patients who have recently received the J&J COVID-19 vaccine.
- Notify Marin County Public Health if you suspect a vaccine-related thrombotic event or thrombocytopenia. During business hours, call (415) 473-4163; after hours call (415) 499-7237.
- Based on [studies](#) conducted among the patients diagnosed with immune thrombotic thrombocytopenia after the AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccine in Europe, the pathogenesis of events after vaccination may be associated with platelet-activating antibodies against platelet factor-4 (PF4), which resembles heparin-induced thrombocytopenia. In this setting, the use of heparin may be harmful, and alternative treatments need to be given.
- Do not administer the J&J COVID-19 vaccine to any patients until the CDC and FDA recommend its use.
- Continue to properly store J&J COVID-19 vaccine.
- Monitor for updates and guidance for resuming use of this product in your practice.