



Public Health
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Frederick County Health Department

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Resuming the Johnson & Johnson/Janssen (J&J) COVID-19 vaccine

Dear Frederick County healthcare providers,

On April 23, the CDC Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) recommended that the pause in the use of the J&J COVID-19 vaccine be lifted. The pause allowed scientists to evaluate all adverse event data and determine that the level of risk was very low such that the benefits of continued use of the J&J vaccine greatly outweighed any risk associated with it. The risk of blood clotting is much higher for people who contract COVID than it is for people who receive the J&J vaccine.

The ACIP also recommended adding a warning label to the vaccine packaging noting the very rare blood clotting disorder risk. Based on ACIP's recommendations, FDA ended the pause.

The Frederick County COVID Vaccine Task Force met last Thursday afternoon and after reviewing the same individual and population-level risks and benefits presented by the FDA and CDC/ACIP, we agreed that use of the J&J COVID-19 vaccine can resume in Frederick County.

Providers administering the J&J COVID vaccine must communicate orally to each vaccine recipient about expected local and systemic post-vaccination symptoms and about rare blood clots having occurred in some people who received this vaccine. I have attached a CDC Infographic regarding the J&J COVID-19 vaccine that we think should be used by providers administering this vaccine to help guide your conversation with the recipient. Importantly, each recipient must also be made aware that there are two alternative COVID vaccines available.

This CDC Infographic (<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/downloads/vaccines/324167-a-consumer-facing-three-vaccines-8.5x11-final-print.pdf>) along with the revised J&J COVID-19 Vaccine FDA Fact Sheet for Recipients and Caregivers (<https://www.fda.gov/media/146305/download>) should be given to each vaccine recipient prior to receiving the J&J vaccine.

Respectfully,

Randall Culpepper
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What do I need to know about Johnson & Johnson's Janssen COVID-19 Vaccine (J&J/Janssen) now?

There is a risk of a rare but serious condition involving blood clots and low platelets in people after receiving the J&J/Janssen COVID-19 Vaccine. **This risk is very low.**

This problem is rare and happened in about 7 per 1 million vaccinated women between 18 and 49 years old.

For women 50 years and older and men of any age, this problem is even more rare.

This problem has not been linked to the other two COVID-19 vaccines (Pfizer-BioNTech and Moderna).



SHOULD I STILL GET VACCINATED with this or other vaccines to protect against COVID-19?

YES, experts agree that all COVID-19 vaccines help prevent COVID-19 disease, especially severe illness and death.

The known and potential benefits of all COVID-19 vaccines outweigh the known and potential risks. You need only one dose of the J&J/Janssen vaccine. You need two doses of the other two vaccines (Pfizer-BioNTech and Moderna).

What if I already got the J&J/Janssen COVID-19 Vaccine?

For three weeks after getting the J&J/Janssen vaccine, you should watch for possible symptoms of a blood clot with low platelets, like:

- Severe headache or blurred vision
- Shortness of breath
- Chest pain
- Leg swelling
- Gut pain that does not go away
- Easy bruising or tiny blood spots under the skin

Get medical care right away if you develop any of these symptoms.



Learn more by talking with your doctor, nurse, or pharmacist, or visit the CDC website: www.cdc.gov.

cdc.gov/coronavirus