From: CT Department of Public Health <noreply-dphimmunizations@ct.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, April 13, 2021 9:16 AM
Subject: Statement Regarding J&J Vaccine for Connecticut Vaccine providers

Ct.gov

Connecticut
Department of Public Health

Dear Connecticut COVID Vaccine Providers,

Early this morning, the U.S. FDA and CDC issued a joint statement recommending a pause on the use of the Johnson & Johnson (J&J) COVID-19 vaccine following six reported US cases of a rare blood clotting event. Although these events are rare, and no events have occurred in Connecticut, the Connecticut Department of Public Health recommends that COVID vaccine providers pause on administration of J&J vaccine for the time being while the FDA and CDC complete their review.

Of 6.8 million individuals who have received the J&J vaccine nationally, six individuals have developed a rare and severe type of blood clot called cerebral venous sinus thrombosis (CVST) within two weeks of receiving their vaccine. All six cases occurred among women between age 18–48 years. Roughly 100,000 Connecticut residents have received the J&J vaccine with no reported serious adverse events.

The CDC, FDA and Connecticut DPH all take vaccine safety extremely seriously. Although the reported complications are extremely rare, we will await the results of the investigation before proceeding with further use of the J&J vaccine.

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.

Vaccine providers that were planning to hold clinics using J&J today and in the coming days will need to delay these clinics or offer an alternative vaccine if they have alternative vaccines available. DPH will work with providers to minimize the disruptions from this announcement in the near-term to the extent possible, but we anticipate that some cancellations will occur. DPH encourages providers to reach out to all individuals who were scheduled to come to a J&J clinic and let them know that their appointment will need to be rescheduled.

The FEMA mobile unit, which is currently in New Britain, is working to modify its schedule. It will be offering an mRNA vaccine instead of J&J vaccine when it resumes. More information about the FEMA mobile unit and other mobile units will be forthcoming.

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.

The 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.

Information about how to cancel or reschedule appointments using VAMS be found on the DPH website at https://portal.ct.gov/DPH/Immunizations/VAMS-Training

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