SACRAMENTO COUNTY
SACRAMENTO COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH
Promote • Prevent • Protect

7001-A East Parkway, Suite 600A
Sacramento, CA 95823
phone (916) 875-5881
fax (916) 854-9709
www.scph.com

Johnson & Johnson (Janssen) COVID-19 Vaccine Update
April 13, 2021

Following reports of six cases in the U.S. of a rare and severe type of blood clot (cerebral venous sinus thrombosis) occurring after receiving the Johnson & Johnson (J&J) vaccine, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and Food and Drug Administration (FDA) issued a joint statement today pausing the use of this vaccine pending further investigation. In alignment with this statement and California Department of Public Health guidance, Sacramento County Public Health will immediately pause the use of the J&J vaccine at community clinics.

Among the cases, symptoms occurred 6 to 13 days after vaccination. Treatment of this type of blood clot is different from the typical treatment. The use of heparin may be dangerous in this situation and alternative treatments should be given. Providers need to be on the alert in patients that have received the J&J vaccine in the past two weeks, and present with severe headaches or difficulty breathing. These patients should be evaluated for possible blood clots or thrombocytopenia. Further guidance is forthcoming.

Health care providers should remind patients to register for V-safe (https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/safety/vsafe.html) and also report any adverse events to the Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System (https://vaers.hhs.gov/reportevent.html).

Resources

1. Joint CDC and FDA Statement on Johnson & Johnson COVID-19 Vaccine: https://www.cdc.gov/media/releases/2021/s0413-JJ-vaccine.html

Sincerely,

Olivia Kasirye MD

Olivia Kasirye, MD, MS
Public Health Officer