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Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) Outbreak, Update # 42 *Update on Johnson & Johnson (J&J) Janssen COVID-19 Vaccine*

- The CDC and FDA have lifted the national “pause” on use of the Johnson and Johnson (J&J) Janssen COVID-19 vaccine and recommend that use of this vaccine resume for people 18 years of age and older.
 - There are no new recommended restrictions on use based on age, gender, or risk factors; however, clinicians need to be aware of the potential very low risk of thrombosis and thrombocytopenia syndrome (TTS) and appropriately inform vaccine recipients (see below).
- The CDC’s Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) met today to review updated information about cases of TTS after the J&J Janssen vaccine.
 - Meeting information, including presented data, can be found online: <https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/acip/meetings/slides-2021-04-23.html>
 - Experts believe that the pathogenesis of TTS is similar to autoimmune heparin induced thrombocytopenia (HIT), but the exact mechanism of the syndrome after receipt of the J&J Janssen vaccine is not yet known
 - The risk of TTS after receipt of the J&J Janssen vaccine is believed to be very low, and ongoing investigation continues
 - No cases of TTS have been identified after receipt of the Moderna or Pfizer-BioNTech mRNA COVID-19 vaccines
- As of April 21st, there have been 15 confirmed TTS cases out of 7.98 million J&J Janssen COVID-19 vaccine doses administered (1.9 cases per million people vaccinated). All have been in females, the majority of which were aged 18-49 years of age (n=13); 3 people have died.
 - The rate of TTS in females aged 18-49 years of age is 7.0 cases per million vaccinated
 - Median age is 37 years (range 18-59)
 - Median time to symptom onset is 8 days (range 6-15 days)
 - No cases have occurred in pregnant or post-partum women
 - 12 cases of TTS involved cerebral venous sinus thrombosis (CVST)
 - Other contributing risk factors for TTS after J&J Janssen vaccination are not known
- Clinicians can resume use of the J&J Janssen vaccine, but should inform patients about the potential, but very low, risk of TTS after receipt of the J&J Janssen vaccine. The FDA and CDC are updating guidance to assist with informing vaccine recipients about potential risks:
 - FDA [Fact Sheet for Recipients and Caregivers](#) has been updated
 - FDA [Fact Sheet for Healthcare Providers Administering Vaccine](#) has been updated
 - A Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report ([MMWR](#)) is planned for Tuesday with further information about TTS and the J&J Janssen vaccine
 - CDC is updating their [Interim Clinical Considerations for Use of COVID-19 Vaccines](#)

- CDC is also planning on develop additional messaging material to help inform clinicians and patients about potential risk for TTS with use of the J&J Janssen vaccine
- A webinar to update clinicians on the latest evidence on TTS after administration of the J&J Janssen COVID-19 vaccine is occurring on **Tuesday, April 27th from 2:00 – 3:00 PM**; call information can be found at: https://emergency.cdc.gov/coca/calls/2021/callinfo_042721.asp.
- In patients with suspected TTS after receipt of the J&J Janssen vaccine, consultation with a hematologist is strongly recommended to assist with diagnosis and management
 - The American Society of Hematology has developed guidance for assessment and management of TTS identified after receipt of the J&J Janssen vaccine: <https://www.hematology.org/covid-19/vaccine-induced-immune-thrombotic-thrombocytopenia>
- Health care providers are asked to report adverse events, including suspected cases of TTS, to the Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System ([VAERS](#)).
- See CDC Health Alert issued on April 13, 2021 for more background information and guidance: <https://emergency.cdc.gov/han/2021/han00442.asp>.

Weekly Partner Calls For:

- **Long-term care facilities and congregate living settings** first and third Wednesdays from 11:45 am – 1:00 pm, in partnership with the NH Healthcare Association (NHHCA):
 - Zoom link: <https://zoom.us/j/511075725>
 - Call-in phone number: (929) 205-6099
 - Meeting ID: 511 075 725
 - Password: 092020
- **Educational and childcare partners** first and third Wednesdays from 3:30 – 4:30 pm:
 - Zoom link: <https://nh-dhhs.zoom.us/j/98062195081>
 - Call-in phone number: (646) 558-8656
 - Meeting ID: 980 6219 5081
 - Password: 197445
- **Healthcare providers and other public health partners** every Thursday from 12:00 – 1:00 pm; these calls focus on new science, medical, and vaccine updates:
 - Zoom link: <https://zoom.us/s/94841259025>
 - Call-in phone number: (646) 558-8656
 - Meeting ID: 948 4125 9025
 - Password: 003270

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- For any questions regarding this notification, please call the NH DHHS, DPHS, Bureau of Infectious Disease Control at (603) 271-4496 during business hours (8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.)
- If you are calling after hours or on the weekend, please call the New Hampshire Hospital switchboard at (603) 271-5300 and request the Public Health Professional on-call
- To change your contact information in the NH Health Alert Network, please send an email to DHHS.Health.Alert@dhhs.nh.gov

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