



Update: Vermont pauses on the use of the Johnson & Johnson vaccine

- On Tuesday, 4/13/21, [CDC and FDA announced a recommendation](#) to pause the use of the Johnson & Johnson COVID-19 vaccine following six reported cases (0.00009%) in the U.S. of a severe type of blood clot following vaccination out of more than 6.8 million doses of the J&J vaccines administered in the U.S.
- All six cases occurred in women 18-48 years of age within 6-13 days after receiving the J&J vaccine.
- To date, there are no known cases of this type of blood clot among people who have been vaccinated with J&J in Vermont.
- While the serious blood clot issue appeared in an extremely small number of people, CDC and FDA are committed to vaccine safety and transparency every step of the way.
- On Wednesday, April 14, the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP), a group of medical and public health experts, will meet to review all available data and make recommendations. This meeting is open to the public.
- This pause was necessary to give the Advisory Committee time to meet. It also gives the FDA, CDC and states time to message on potential blood clotting symptoms to look for approximately a week or two after vaccination, and allows health care professionals to learn how to assess and treat this rare condition.
- It is common to experience some temporary side effects shortly after vaccination, such as headache, muscle aches, chills, fever.
- However, if you received the J&J COVID-19 vaccine within the past month and are experiencing **severe headache, abdominal or leg pain, or shortness of breath – contact your health care provider and seek treatment right away.** These symptoms don't occur immediately after vaccination.
- Until we know more, we are contacting people who have appointments for a J&J vaccine through Friday, April 23rd to get them rescheduled.
- Vermonters who are scheduled for appointments this week through the state registration system will be offered to reschedule for a 2-dose vaccine at a later date. Once we learn more about when J&J will be available again, we expect people will be able to start making appointments for the J&J vaccine.
- We will continue to work with our federal and state partners to understand what this means for Vermonters and will share updates on social media as we get new information.
- If you are having trouble finding a new appointment online, we may be able to help you find an earlier one by calling 855-722-7878.