

Vermont Johnson & Johnson Vaccine Clinics to Start Again
Based on CDC findings that risk of developing blood clots is very rare

BURLINGTON, VT – The Vermont Department of Health announced it will resume use of the Johnson & Johnson vaccines. The decision was made following the announcement by the FDA and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention that its advisory committee has found the vaccine is safe and effective for use, and that the pause in place since April 13 can be lifted.

“We are glad to have this supply of vaccine available again to protect Vermonters from the COVID-19 virus,” said Health Commissioner Mark Levine, MD. “I encourage everyone who is eligible to get vaccinated as quickly as possible with whichever vaccine that is available and appropriate for you.”

Vermonters age 18 and older can sign up now for clinics offering the single-dose Johnson & Johnson vaccine. **To register for an appointment, visit healthvermont.gov/MyVaccine. If you need assistance, call 855-722-7878 and press 1 for interpretation services.** Vermonters age 16 and 17 are only eligible to receive the Pfizer vaccine.

“While the disruption was unfortunate, making sure the vaccine is safe is our topmost concern,” said Dr. Levine. “From a public health perspective, the actions taken to pause and study were completely appropriate – this is science at work. We have a responsibility to ensure that people have confidence in this, and all vaccines.”

Vermont joined most other states in pausing use of the vaccine on the recommendation of the CDC, in response to a small number of reports of blood clots among vaccine recipients. Federal health officials announced the pause to allow the CDC’s Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices time to review additional data about reported side effects.

Dr. Levine said that during the pause Vermont’s health care providers were given information and guidance about the potential blood clotting symptoms and appropriate medical treatment. Updated guidance will continue to be provided.

Nearly 8 million doses of the Johnson & Johnson vaccine have been administered in the U.S. The reports that led to the temporary pause involved a rare and severe type of blood clot called cerebral venous sinus thrombosis (CVST). The problems were found up to 2 weeks after vaccination. There have been no reported cases of these side effects in Vermont.

Although the [side effects](#) of concern are extremely rare, the FDA and CDC recommend that people who develop severe headache, abdominal pain, leg pain or shortness of breath within three weeks of receiving the Johnson & Johnson vaccine should immediately contact their health care provider.