



## Health Alert

# CDC/FDA Recommend Immediate Pause in Use of Janssen (Johnson & Johnson) COVID-19 Vaccine

April 13, 2021

*The following information is issued on behalf of the SF COVID Command Center*

**CDC and FDA have recommended a national pause in administration of Janssen COVID-19 vaccine** while they investigate 6 cases of cerebral venous sinus thrombosis seen in combination with thrombocytopenia, that have occurred 6 to 13 days after vaccination in women between the ages of 18 and 48 years who received the Janssen vaccine.

No such cases are known to have occurred in San Francisco or California. This syndrome has not been reported in association with the Moderna or Pfizer-BioNTech vaccines.

FDA and CDC's Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices have announced that they will meet to review the data tomorrow on these rare events – over 6 million doses of Janssen vaccine have been administered nationally. CDPH indicates that the Western States Scientific Advisory Committee will be convened to review the matter.

CDC and FDA recommend that 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. Treatment of this specific type of blood clot, cerebral venous sinus thrombosis (CVST), is different from the treatment that might typically be administered. Usually, heparin is used to treat blood clots. In this setting, administration of heparin may be dangerous, and alternative treatments need to be given.

Health care providers are asked to report adverse events to the Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System at <https://vaers.hhs.gov/reportevent.html>.

See <https://www.cdc.gov/media/releases/2021/s0413-JJ-vaccine.html>

Information will be updated as it becomes available.