



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Reedsburg Area Medical Center
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Pause on Use of Johnson & Johnson (J&J) COVID-19 Vaccine is Out of an Abundance of Caution

The Food & Drug Association (FDA), Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS) have asked vaccinators to pause the use of the Johnson & Johnson vaccine.

“This pause is being done out of an abundance of caution while the FDA and CDC review data involving six reported U.S. cases of a rare type of blood clot in individuals after receiving the J&J vaccine,” explains Dr. Elizabeth Baker, Reedsburg Area Medical Center Chief Medical Officer. “As of April 12th, more than 6.8 million doses of the J&J vaccine have been administered in the U.S., so these adverse events are extremely rare.”

“This pause to investigate is a reassuring display of scientific transparency, and is standard practice in response to a potential safety signal in a new medication or vaccine,” continues Mo Kharbat, SSM Health Regional VP of Pharmacy Services. “These adverse events have not been reported for the other two available COVID-19 vaccines, Pfizer and Moderna, they both remain safe and effective and we encourage Wisconsinites to get vaccinated.”

“If you have received the J&J vaccine, know that these severe events are extremely rare. Monitor for severe headache, abdominal pain, leg pain, or shortness of breath for three weeks after vaccination. If you experience these symptoms, contact your health care provider,” recommends Dr. Andrea Chao, MD, Sauk Prairie Healthcare Pediatrician and Community COVID-19 Vaccination Clinic Leader. “We also recommend people who get a COVID-19 vaccine to use the v-safe after vaccination health checker app (<https://vsafe.cdc.gov/>) to report symptoms after vaccination. Reporting symptoms helps keep COVID-

19 vaccines safe for you and for everyone.”

All Sauk County COVID-19 Vaccination Sites have paused the use of J&J vaccine. If you have an upcoming appointment to be vaccinated with J&J, please check the vaccinator’s website for updates. Local vaccinators are doing their best to fill current appointments with Pfizer or Moderna, however, as supply is limited your appointment may need to be rescheduled. To locate a Sauk County Vaccination Site, visit <https://www.co.sauk.wi.us/publichealth/covid-19-vaccination-sites>

For more information:

- CDC and FDA Statement on J&J COVID-19 Vaccine: <https://www.cdc.gov/media/releases/2021/s0413-JJ-vaccine.html>
- WI DHS Vaccine Safety: <https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/covid-19/vaccine-safety.htm>
- V-safe After Vaccination Health Checker App: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/safety/vsafe.html>
- Sauk County Vaccination Site Locator: <https://www.co.sauk.wi.us/publichealth/covid-19-vaccination-sites>

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