Health Advisory Update #30: Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) Vaccine Update

Key Message

• The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) have issued a joint statement recommending pausing use of the Johnson & Johnson (Janssen) COVID-19 vaccine.

Situation

• Janssen (Johnson & Johnson) COVID-19 Vaccine
  o The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) have issued a joint statement recommending pausing use of the Johnson & Johnson (Janssen) COVID-19 vaccine.
  o The CDC and FDA are reviewing data involving six reported U.S. cases of cerebral venous sinus thrombosis seen in combination with thrombocytopenia in individuals after receiving the Janssen vaccine. All six cases occurred among women between the ages of 18 and 48, and symptoms occurred 6 to 13 days after vaccination. Symptoms may include severe headache, abdominal pain, leg pain, or shortness of breath within 3 weeks of vaccination. For additional clinical information, please see the full CDC Health Alert.
  o California Department of Public Health (CDPH) is also recommending pausing Janssen vaccine use and will urgently convene the Western State’s Scientific Advisory Committee.
  o CDC will convene a meeting of the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) on April 14, 2021 from 1:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. ET, to further review these cases and assess their potential significance. Webcast meeting link (no registration required).
  o Until these processes are complete, use of the Johnson & Johnson (Janssen) COVID-19 vaccine should be paused by healthcare providers in San Diego County.

Actions Requested

1. Immediately pause vaccination with the Johnson & Johnson (Janssen) COVID-19 vaccine pending further notice. This includes vials that have already been opened and lots of vaccine that may expire soon.
3. Do not reject Janssen vaccine shipments; accept and mark as in Action 2.
4. Report vaccine-related adverse events and vaccine administration errors to the Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System (VAERS), and to the County Epidemiology and Immunization Services Branch at IZINFO.HHSA@sdcounty.ca.gov or Fax: (619) 692-5677.

Thank you for your participation.

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