



Johnson & Johnson (Janssen) Vaccine Announcement WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

GRHC WILL PAUSE ADMINISTRATION OF J&J VACCINE

Important: Watch out for side effects related to blood clots. This includes severe headache, abdominal pain, leg pain, or shortness of breath within three weeks after receiving the Johnson & Johnson (J&J) shot.

The safety of our patients is a top priority at GRHC, and we take all reports of health problems following COVID-19 vaccination very seriously. Our providers are taking extra measures to screen patients, and we have provided updated guidelines to our medical providers.

To date, GRHC has administered over 400 J&J vaccines. Provider teams will contact each of these patients to address questions and concerns. Meanwhile, should patients have questions, they are encouraged to call the GRHC COVID-19 Hotline (520) 550-6079 to speak with a provider or visit [GRHC.ORG/JJVAX](https://www.grhc.org/jjvax).

Here's what you need to know...

- The United States on Tuesday (April 12, 2021) recommended pausing the use of the Johnson & Johnson COVID-19 vaccine to investigate reports of a handful of cases involving very rare, but potentially dangerous, blood clots.
- Due to the adverse reactions experience by the COVID-19 J&J vaccine in other parts of the U.S., Gila River Healthcare along with the Phoenix Area Office of Indian Health Service will follow CDC and FDA recommendations and temporarily suspend administration of the Johnson and Johnson vaccine until further guidance is received.
- The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and Food and Drug Administration (FDA) are reviewing data involving six reported U.S. cases of a rare and severe type of blood clot in females after receiving the J&J vaccine. At present, these adverse events appear to be extremely rare. Patients who have received the J&J vaccine who develop severe headache, abdominal pain, leg pain, or shortness of breath within 30 days after vaccination should contact their health care provider.
 - U.S. health authorities noted that when these clots occur with low platelet count, as seen in these six cases, a typical clot treatment could do more harm. Officials said this pause will give time to let healthcare providers know what they should be on the lookout for.
- In light of Astra Zeneca's (J&J) vaccine association with blood clots, GRHC has been monitoring this concern. While it is a very rare reaction, out of an abundance of caution, GRHC will continue to monitor patients for any potential cases of vaccine-associated blood clots, and await further details from the CDC and FDA as they review the cases.

- CDC will convene a meeting of the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) on Wednesday to further review these cases and assess their potential significance. FDA will review that analysis as it also investigates these cases.

What to be aware of if you already received the Johnson & Johnson vaccine:

- More than 6.8 million doses of the J&J vaccine have been administered in the U.S., the vast majority with no or mild side effects.
- People who recently got the vaccine should be aware to look for any symptoms and especially severe headache, abdominal pain, leg pain or shortness of breath.
- For people who got the vaccine more than a month ago, the risk to them is very low at this time.
- People who recently got the vaccine within the last 30 days, should be aware to look for any symptoms and should contact their health care provider and seek medical treatment.
- Symptoms are different from the mild flu-like symptoms, fever and so forth, that many people experience in the couple days after receipt of the vaccine.
- Usually occurred about a week after vaccination and no later than 3 weeks after vaccination.

About common side effects of the Johnson & Johnson vaccine:

Mild flu-like symptoms typically occur within a couple of days of receiving a COVID-19 vaccine and go away in a few days. According to the CDC, the common side effects specifically from the vaccine include pain, redness, and swelling in the arm where you received the shot, as well as tiredness, headache, muscle pain, chills, fever, and nausea throughout the rest of the body.

Does this impact Pfizer or Moderna vaccinations?

No. Moderna and Pfizer, which make up the vast share of COVID-19 shots administered in the U.S., are not affected by the J&J pause and there have been no reports of this possible issue related to those 2-dose vaccines.

For more info on the Johnson & Johnson COVID vaccine go to:
[Joint CDC and FDA Statement on Johnson & Johnson COVID-19 Vaccine](#)



**FOR GENERAL INFO ABOUT COVID-19, GO TO [GRHC.ORG/HUB](https://www.grhc.org/hub) OR
CALL THE GRHC COVID-19 HOTLINE AT (520) 550-6079**