J&J COVID-19 Vaccine - Use Paused Due to Possible Safety Concern

- On April 13, 2021, the CDC and FDA recommended a pause in the use of the Johnson & Johnson (J&J) coronavirus vaccine out of an abundance of caution due to six reports of blood clots.
    - J&J has also issued a statement.
- In these six cases, a type of blood clot called cerebral venous sinus thrombosis (CVST) was seen in combination with low levels of blood platelets (thrombocytopenia). All six cases occurred among women between the ages of 18 and 48, and symptoms occurred 6 to 13 days after vaccination.
    - The data surrounding these cases is currently being evaluated by experts at the CDC and FDA.
- As of April 12, 2021, more than 6.8 million doses of J&J's vaccine have been administered, so these adverse events appear to be very rare
- Similar cases have not been observed with the Pfizer/BioNTech or Moderna vaccines and the CDC continues to recommend that individuals get vaccinated.
- Per the FDA statement, individuals 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.
- The CDC's Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) has scheduled an emergency meeting for Wednesday April 14 to discuss the safety of the J&J vaccine, and provide updated recommendations for use.
- Health care providers are asked to report adverse events to the Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System at https://vaers.hhs.gov/reportevent.html.