Wyoming Department of Health

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State Health Advisory Supplement
Temporary Pause in Administration of Johnson & Johnson (Janssen) COVID-19 Vaccine

Coronavirus Disease 2019 Supplemental Advisory #12.6
Wyoming Department of Health
April 13, 2021

SITUATION SUMMARY

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention are recommending providers temporarily cease administering the Johnson & Johnson (Janssen) COVID-19 vaccine. **The Wyoming Department of Health (WDH) is asking Wyoming providers to follow this recommendation and stop administering the Johnson & Johnson COVID-19 vaccine immediately.**

BACKGROUND

As of April 12, 2021, more than 6.8 million doses of the Johnson & Johnson vaccine have been administered in the U.S. CDC and FDA are reviewing data involving six reported U.S. cases of cerebral venous sinus thrombosis (CVST) in combination with thrombocytopenia. All six cases occurred among women between the ages of 18 and 48, and symptoms occurred 6 to 13 days after vaccination.

These adverse events appear to be rare but serious. CDC will convene a meeting of the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) on Wednesday, April 14, 2021, to further review these cases and assess their potential significance. FDA will also review that analysis.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Effective immediately, WDH asks Wyoming providers to temporarily cease administration of the Johnson & Johnson COVID-19 vaccine pending additional recommendations from the FDA, CDC, and ACIP. Providers are asked to continue to store the vaccine pending further direction.

Individuals who have received the Johnson & Johnson vaccine who develop severe headache, abdominal pain, leg pain, or shortness of breath within three weeks after vaccination should contact their healthcare provider.

Healthcare providers should be aware of the possibility of CVST and thrombocytopenia following Johnson & Johnson vaccine administration and plan for proper recognition and management. Clinical manifestations of CVST can include headache, papilledema, visual loss, focal or generalized seizures, focal neurologic deficits, altered consciousness, and coma. Healthcare providers should report all adverse events to the Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System at https://vaers.hhs.gov/reportevent.html.

CDC and FDA warn that using heparin to manage CVST in these patients may be dangerous, and recommend the use of alternative treatments. Additional details are not available at this time.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

The joint FDA and CDC announcement can be found here: https://www.fda.gov/news-events/press-announcements/joint-cdc-and-fda-statement-johnson-johnson-covid-19-vaccine.

WDH will provide additional information as it becomes available. Healthcare providers may contact State Health Officer Dr. Alexia Harrist at 307-777-7716 or alexia.harrist1@wyo.gov.