



# PRESSING PAUSE ON THE J&J VACCINE WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

**On April 13, 2021, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) issued a recommendation to pause use of the Johnson & Johnson (also J&J or Janssen) COVID-19 vaccine.**

- Six cases of rare but severe blood clots were reported.
- All cases occurred in women between the ages of 18-48, one of whom passed away.
- The pause allows the FDA to study whether these blood clots were caused by the vaccine.

## **Good News: The System is Working!**

When adverse or previously unreported events due to a vaccine are reported, this signals the FDA to investigate the relationship between the vaccine and the event. In this case, the FDA is investigating whether the Johnson & Johnson vaccine actually caused the blood clots. The CDC and the FDA decided to exercise an abundance of caution in pausing the vaccine's use so that they can examine the issue further.

## **So is the Johnson & Johnson Vaccine Safe?**

For the majority of people, yes. However, as with many medical products, a small number of people may experience serious negative side effects. More information on how likely those side effects are is needed, which is why use of the vaccine has been paused.

## **You Can Still Get Vaccinated Against COVID-19!**

There are alternative vaccines available (Pfizer/BioNTech and Moderna). These vaccines have been in use since December 2020 and have not been associated with any serious side effects.

