MISSISSIPPI STATE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

This is an official
MS Health Alert Network (HAN) Alert

MESSAGE ID:	**MSHAN-20210427-00515-ALT (Health Alert)**
RECIPIENTS:	**All Physicians, Hospitals, ERs, ICPs, NPs, and Healthcare Providers – Statewide**
	Tuesday, April 27, 2021
SUBJECT:	**MSDH Recommendations for Utilization of Johnson and Johnson COVID-19 Vaccine Doses**

Key Messages

- On April 23, 2021, the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) recommended resuming Johnson and Johnson (J&J) COVID-19 vaccination for all persons aged 18 years and older, with a warning regarding the occurrence of rare clotting events (Thrombosis with Thrombocytopenia Syndrome) mainly among women aged 18-49 years.
- To date, 15 cases of Thrombosis with Thrombocytopenia Syndrome (TTS) have been identified between 6-15 days (median 8 days) post vaccination with J&J.
- TTS is a rare syndrome involving **new onset thrombocytopenia** and thrombosis in unusual locations such as cerebral venous sinuses, splanchnic veins, or a combination of venous and arterial thromboses. TTS appears to be similar to heparin-induced thrombocytopenia, a rare reaction to heparin treatment.
- Treatment for TTS after J&J COVID-19 vaccine is different from the typical treatment for blood clots; specifically, heparin should not be administered, and consultation with a hematologist is strongly recommended.
- Thirteen cases occurred in women aged 18-49 years, two in women aged 50 or greater. The median age was 37 years. All 15 cases were hospitalized, and 3 deaths were reported.
- The highest rate was among women aged 30-39 years, with 11.8 cases of TTS reported per million doses of J&J administered.
- The overall rate of TTS for all age groups and genders was 1.9 cases per million doses of J&J administered in the US.
- **No cases of central venous sinus thrombosis with thrombocytopenia have been reported after receipt of either of the two mRNA COVID-19 vaccines (Pfizer/Moderna).**

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MSDH Recommendations for MS Providers

Education regarding the risk of TTS with J&J vaccine is critical as is the need to inform vaccine recipients, especially women aged <50, that alternative vaccines are available.

- Ensure your patients are aware of the type of vaccine they are receiving.
- Provide counseling about the rare risk of TTS with J&J COVID-19 vaccine, especially among women aged <50 years,
- Ensure awareness of the availability of alternative COVID-19 vaccines (Pfizer/Moderna).
- Prior to vaccination, each recipient should also receive a copy of the EUA Fact Sheet for Caregivers and Recipients (see below).
- Please have an alternative to J&J available for patients who request a different COVID-19 vaccine. Both Pfizer and Moderna mRNA vaccines doses are available for distribution to enrolled providers. Enrolled providers may request vaccine form MSDH https://msdh.ms.gov/msdhsite/_static/14,0,71,975.html
- Maintain a high index of suspicion for any patient that presents with symptoms of a clot in association with thrombocytopenia after recent (within 3 weeks) administration of the J&J vaccine.
    - Consult with a hematologist to confirm the diagnosis and treatment; utilize a non-heparin anticoagulant.
- Report these and other adverse events to the Vaccine Adverse Reporting System at VAERS - Report an Adverse Event (hhs.gov)
- Please see Updated Recommendations from the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices for Use of the Janssen (Johnson & Johnson) COVID-19 Vaccine After Reports of Thrombosis with Thrombocytopenia Syndrome Among Vaccine Recipients — United States, April 2021 | MWR (cdc.gov) for additional details.

Emergency Use Authorization and updated fact sheets for both providers and recipients of the J&J COVID-19 vaccine:

- Janssen COVID-19 Vaccine EUA Fact Sheet for Healthcare Providers (fda.gov)
- Janssen COVID-19 Vaccine EUA Fact Sheet for Recipients and Caregivers 04232021 (fda.gov)

Regards,
Paul Byers, MD
State Epidemiologist

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Alerting Message Specification Settings

Originating Agency:	Mississippi State Department of Health
Alerting Program:	MS Health Alert Network (MS HAN)
Message Identifier:	MSHAN-20210427-00515-ALT
Program (HAN) Type:	Health Alert
Status (Type):	Actual ()
Message Type:	Alert
Reference:	MSHAN-00515
Severity:	Unknown
Acknowledgement:	No
Sensitive:	Not Sensitive
Message Expiration:	Undetermined
Urgency:	Undetermined
Delivery Time:	600 minutes

Definition of Alerting Vocabulary and Message Specification Settings

Originating Agency: A unique identifier for the agency originating the alert.

Alerting Program: The program sending the alert or engaging in alerts and communications using PHIN Communication and Alerting (PCA) as a vehicle for their delivery.

Message Identifier: A unique alert identifier that is generated upon alert activation (MSHAN-yyymmdd-hhmm-TTT **(ALT=Health Alert, ADV=Health Advisory, UPD=Health Update, MSG/INFO=Message/Info Service**).

Program (HAN) Type: Categories of Health Alert Messages**.**

Health Alert: Conveys the highest level of importance; warrants immediate action or attention.

Health Advisory: Provides important information for a specific incident or situation; may not require immediate action.

Health Update: Provides updated information regarding an incident or situation; unlikely to require immediate action.

Health Info Service: Provides Message / Notification of general public health information; unlikely to require immediate action.

Status (Type):

Actual:	Communication or alert refers to a live event
Exercise:	Designated recipients must respond to the communication or alert
Test:	Communication or alert is related to a technical, system test and should be disregarded

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Message Type:

Alert:	Indicates an original Alert
Update:	Indicates prior alert has been Updated and/or superseded
Cancel:	Indicates prior alert has been cancelled
Error:	Indicates prior alert has been retracted

Reference: For a communication or alert with a Message Type of "Update" or "Cancel", this attribute contains the unique Message Identifier of the original communication or alert being updated or cancelled. "n/a" = Not Applicable.

Severity:

Extreme:	Extraordinary threat to life or property
Severe:	Significant threat to life or property
Moderate:	Possible threat to life or property
Minor:	Minimal threat to life or property
Unknown:	Unknown threat to life or property

Acknowledgement: Indicates whether an acknowledgement on the part of the recipient is required to confirm that the alert was received, and the timeframe in which a response is required (Yes or No).

Sensitive:

Sensitive:	Indicates the alert contains sensitive content
Not Sensitive:	Indicates non-sensitive content

Message Expiration: Undetermined.

Urgency: Undetermined. Responsive action should be taken immediately.

Delivery Time: Indicates the timeframe for delivery of the alert (15, 60, 1440, 4320 minutes (.25, 1, 24, 72 hours)).