

Jackson County Department of Public Health

538 Scotts Creek Road ● Sylva, NC 28779 Tel: 828-586-8994 ● FAX: 828-586-3493 Shelley Carraway DIRECTOR

For Immediate Release: April 13, 2021

To: Jackson County Community & Stakeholders From: Jackson County Department of Public Health

Re: Jackson County Department of Public Health Pauses Johnson & Johnson's Janssen COVID-19

Vaccine per CDC & FDA Recommendations

On April 13, 2021, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and Food and Drug Administration (FDA) released a joint statement recommending a pause in the use of the Johnson & Johnson Janssen COVID-19 vaccine. This recommendation was made out of an abundance of caution after the CDC and FDA reviewed data involving six (6) reported US cases of a rare and severe type of blood clot called cerebral venous sinus thrombosis (CVST) in combination with low levels of blood platelets (thrombocytopenia). All six (6) cases were among women between the ages of 18-48 years and symptoms occurred 6-13 days after vaccination.

The 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. The FDA will review that analysis as it also reviews these cases. The Jackson County Department of Public Health (JCDPH) will pause the use of the Johnson & Johnson Janssen COVID-19 vaccine until additional information is provided by the CDC, FDA, and ACIP. The COVID-19 Vaccine Drive Thru Clinic scheduled on Thursday, April 15, 2021 is cancelled as a result.

Right now, adverse events appear to be extremely rare. People who have received the Johnson & Johnson Janssen COVID-19 vaccine who develop a severe headache, abdominal pain, leg pain, or shortness of breath within three (3) weeks after vaccination should call their healthcare provider.

To read the full statement from the CDC and FDA, visit https://www.fda.gov/news-events/press-announcements/joint-cdc-and-fda-statement-johnson-johnson-covid-19-vaccine.

This is an evolving situation. JCDPH will provide additional information as it becomes available.

###