



KALAMAZOO COUNTY GOVERNMENT

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**NEWS RELEASE FOR
IMMEDIATE RELEASE**
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Kalamazoo County Health Department Pausing Use of Johnson & Johnson Vaccine

Kalamazoo, MI – The Kalamazoo County Health & Community Services Department (HCS) will pause all upcoming Johnson & Johnson Vaccine Clinics, in accordance with guidance from the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), to review relevant data concerning cases of extremely rare but serious blood clots in those who have received the Johnson & Johnson vaccine. HCS will work to reschedule Johnson & Johnson vaccine clinic appointments to Pfizer or Moderna.

As of April 12, more than 6.8 million doses of the Johnson & Johnson vaccine have been administered in the United States. The CDC and FDA are reviewing data involving six reported U.S. cases of a rare and severe type of blood clot in individuals after receiving the J&J vaccine. All six cases occurred among women between the ages of 18 and 48, and symptoms occurred 6 to 13 days after vaccination. In Kalamazoo County 4,015 doses of Johnson & Johnson vaccine have been administered with no reported cases of blood-clotting.

CDC will convene a meeting of the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) on Wednesday to further review these cases and assess their potential significance. FDA will review that analysis as it also investigates these cases. Until that process is complete, HCS will be following the recommended pause in the use of this vaccine out of an abundance of caution.

“We take this recent development very seriously and we will continue to review the data and follow the recommendations given by our state and federal partners regarding vaccine management and distribution.” Said Kalamazoo County Health & Community Services Department Health Officer Jim Rutherford. “Vaccines remain as the best defense against COVID-19 which has taken more than 550,000 lives nationally. The safety of our residents through vaccine distribution remains our top priority, although at this time we will not be using the Johnson & Johnson product.”

Individuals with postponed appointments will be contacted and rescheduled as soon as possible.

Right now, these adverse events appear to be extremely rare. COVID-19 vaccine safety is a top priority for the public health, and we take all reports of health problems following COVID-19 vaccination very seriously. People who have received the J&J vaccine who develop **severe headache, abdominal pain, leg pain, or**

HEALTH AND COMMUNITY SERVICES DEPARTMENT

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shortness of breath within three weeks after vaccination should contact their health care provider. Health care providers are asked to report adverse events to the Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System at <https://vaers.hhs.gov/reportevent.html>.

Important points:

- The most up-to-date information is at www.kalcounty.com/covid19 and www.facebook.com/KalamazooCountyHCS. The health department will notify the public via press releases, social media and website updates as information changes.
- If you schedule an appointment but find another option or cannot make it, **please remember to cancel your appointment so someone else can schedule**. You may cancel through the appointment reminder email you received from the health department's scheduling system or by calling the health department's COVID-19 Call Center at 269-373-5200.
- Vaccination is by appointment only. Do NOT show up at the health department or any vaccination site without an appointment.
- Kalamazoo County Government's website can be converted to Spanish, Arabic and French. On any county website, in the top right-hand corner under the social media icons, you will see "Translate". Click on this and select the language you wish to translate the page to. The pre-registration waitlist form will also translate to this language.
- Please reserve phone calls for those who cannot easily access online information. The health department's COVID-19 Call Center is 269-373-5200.

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