



# Oregon Health Authority Lifts Pause on Administration of Johnson & Johnson Vaccine

(Updated 4-25-2021)

The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has lifted the pause on administration of the Johnson & Johnson COVID-19 vaccine and added a warning about the rare side effects of blood clots in women under the age of 50.

- The FDA and CDC have confirmed the vaccine is safe and effective after a thorough safety review.
- The Oregon Health Authority has issued guidance that will enable Oregon providers to resume use and distribution of the Johnson & Johnson vaccine, following a review by the Western States Scientific Safety Review Workgroup.
- Vaccine providers in Oregon may now resume the use of the Johnson & Johnson COVID-19 vaccine so long as they ensure that recipients and their caregivers receive the new warning information regarding certain very rare but serious blood clot conditions.

On April 13, out of an abundance of caution, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and Food and Drug Administration (FDA) released a statement recommending a pause in the use of the Johnson & Johnson COVID-19 vaccine while they reviewed data involving six reported U.S. cases of a rare and severe type of blood clot in women ages 18–48 after receiving the Johnson & Johnson vaccine.

At that time, the Oregon Health Authority asked all of the state's vaccine providers to immediately pause administering the Johnson & Johnson vaccine, in accordance with the [announcement](#).

## Q1. What do we know about these cases so far?

A1. As of April 24, there have been 15 reported cases that involve a rare and severe type of blood clot known as cerebral venous sinus thrombosis (CVST). These cases were seen in combination with low levels of blood platelets.

All 15 cases occurred in women between the ages of 18 and 59, with a median age of 37. Symptoms began 6 to 15 days after vaccination. One of the cases was in Oregon.

Three of the 15 women have died. Our deepest sympathies go out to these women's loved ones.

**Q2. How many people have received the Johnson & Johnson vaccine?**

A2. As of April 12, 2021, more than 6.8 million doses of the Johnson & Johnson vaccine have been administered across the United States.

In Oregon, 213,300 doses of the Johnson & Johnson vaccine have been delivered, as of April 12, 2021, and 85,148 of those have been administered.

**Q3. If I received the Johnson & Johnson vaccine, what symptoms should I look for?**

A3. People who have received the Johnson & Johnson vaccine and who develop severe headache, abdominal pain, leg pain or shortness of breath within three weeks of vaccination should contact their health care provider or seek emergency care.

**Q4. Where are the Johnson & Johnson vaccines allocated in Oregon?**

A4. The Johnson & Johnson vaccines have been allocated across the state to clinics, pharmacies, hospitals, Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs) and to Local Public Health Authorities (LPHAs).

**Q5. What is the impact on the state's efforts to vaccinate everyone in Oregon who wants a vaccine?**

A5. Pausing the use of the Johnson & Johnson vaccine has temporarily slowed vaccination efforts nationwide and in Oregon. We still are optimistic that there will be enough vaccine for all eligible people in Oregon to receive their first dose by early June.

Vaccinations with Moderna and Pfizer vaccines will continue, and eligibility is unchanged. All Oregonians age 16 years and older are eligible to receive a vaccine. The Moderna and Johnson & Johnson vaccines are available to people 18 and older. The Pfizer vaccine is authorized for people 16 and older.

**Q6. Have there been any reports of this condition in Oregon patients after receiving the Johnson & Johnson vaccine?**

A6. Yes, the CDC is investigating the death of an Oregon woman following immunization with Johnson & Johnson's COVID-19 vaccine.

**Q7. Does this mean the Johnson & Johnson vaccine is less effective than previously thought?**

A7. No. There have been no reports to indicate that the effectiveness of the Johnson & Johnson vaccine is affected.

**Q8. Have there been any recommendations to pause the use of Pfizer and Moderna vaccines?**

A8. No. The pause did not impact Moderna and Pfizer vaccine use because these illnesses were not found in people who received Moderna or Pfizer

vaccines. The CDC and FDA alert was specific to the use of the Johnson & Johnson vaccine.

**Q9. Are there certain people who are more susceptible to this condition if they get the Johnson & Johnson vaccine?**

**A9.** These adverse events appear to be extremely rare, but they were flagged for further study by the national Vaccine Events Reporting System (VAERS). The 15 reported cases were in women, ages 18-59, and occurred 6 to 15 days after vaccination. They are being carefully reviewed at the federal level. COVID-19 vaccine safety is a top priority.

**Q10. Is there anything people can do to prevent this condition if they have received the Johnson & Johnson vaccine?**

**A10.** The frequency of the reports is extremely low – so far slightly more than 1 in a million.

We recommend that people who have received the Johnson & Johnson vaccine watch for symptoms — including severe headache, abdominal pain, leg pain, or shortness of breath — for 21 days following vaccination and notify their doctor if any of these symptoms develop.

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