

ALLEGAN COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

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NEWS RELEASE FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Allegan County Health Department Pauses Use of Johnson and Johnson COVID-19 Vaccine

(Allegan, MI)— Allegan County Health Department (ACHD) is pausing all use of the Janssen (Johnson & Johnson) COVID-19 vaccine. The FDA and CDC have recommended this pause, and the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) has confirmed it. The Health Department is stopping all use of the Johnson & Johnson vaccine until more is known. There is no impact on use of the Pfizer or Moderna vaccines.

“We will pause all use of the Johnson & Johnson vaccine and replace with Pfizer and Modera vaccines until the FDA and CDC complete the investigation process regarding reports of blood clots after receiving Johnson & Johnson vaccine,” states Allegan County Health Officer, Angeliq Joynes, MPH, RN. While adverse events are extremely rare, vaccine safety remains to be our highest priority.”

ACHD had intended to use the Johnson & Johnson vaccine at an upcoming clinic on Sunday, April 18. This pause also includes redistribution of vaccine and plans for mobile clinics.

Per the FDA and CDC, people who have received the Johnson & Johnson vaccine who are experiencing severe headache, abdominal pain, leg pain, or shortness of breath within three weeks (21 days) after vaccination should contact their health care provider. If you received the Johnson & Johnson shot and have not developed any of the side effects associated with the signs of blood clots within three weeks after vaccination, the risk of an adverse reaction is unlikely; however continue to monitor for symptoms. As of April 7, ACHD had administered 1,170 doses of the Johnson and Johnson vaccine from previous clinics.

Health care providers are asked to report adverse events to the Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System at vaers.hhs.gov/reportevent.html

“As cases and hospitalizations in Allegan County individuals continue to increase, we encourage everyone to get vaccinated when they have the opportunity to do so. Pfizer and Moderna vaccines are still available for those who want the vaccine,” states Allegan County Medical Director Richard Tooker.

This is an evolving incident. More information will be provided once available. For more information on the Pfizer and Moderna vaccines, visit cdc.gov/vaccines.

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