April 14, 2021

RE: Johnson and Johnson (Janssen) COVID-19 Vaccine

This is in response to a statement by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommending a pause in the use of the Johnson & Johnson vaccine following rare blood-clotting events in six people in the U.S. after receiving the vaccine.

Governor DeWine, Ohio Department of Health Director Stephanie McCloud, and Ohio Department of Health Chief Medical Officer Bruce Vanderhoff, M.D., directed all Ohio vaccine providers to temporarily pause using the Johnson and Johnson vaccine following a recommendation by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and the Centers for Disease Control (CDC).

* + The recommendation was made after **six** people who received the Johnson and Johnson vaccine experienced an extremely rare blood-clotting condition in the United States.
	+ The cases have occurred in women between 18 and 48 and the reactions have taken place within 6-13 days after receiving the vaccine.
* Approximately 6.8 million people have received the Johnson and Johnson vaccine in the U.S.
	+ 264,311 of those vaccinations were administered in Ohio.

\*People who have received the Johnson & Johnson vaccine who develop any of these symptoms within three weeks after vaccination **should contact their doctor**

* **severe headache**
* **abdominal pain**
* **leg pain**
* **shortness of breath**

**Vaccine adverse events** are reported through the [Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System](https://vaers.hhs.gov/) (VAERS). VAERS, managed by the CDC and FDA, is part of the larger vaccine safety system in the United States that helps make sure vaccines are safe. A report to VAERS does not mean that a vaccine caused an adverse event. But VAERS can give CDC and FDA important information. FDA and CDC will investigate further and take action as needed.