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Audrain County Health Pauses Use of Johnson & Johnson Vaccine Amid Federal Advice

(MEXICO) – Officials with the Audrain County Health Department (ACHD) announced this (Tuesday) morning the department is following the advice of the federal Food and Drug Administration (FDA) by pausing the use of the Johnson & Johnson vaccine until further notice. The FDA recommended pausing the use of the vaccine after six women developed blood clots within two weeks of taking the vaccine.

“It’s a precautionary move on both the FDA and on our part,” ACHD Administrator/CEO Craig Brace said. “We don’t want to possibly put any of our residents at risk if there is found to be a problem with the Johnson & Johnson vaccine.”

The FDA has ordered further testing and research be done in conjunction with the vaccine and the blood clots to see if there is a link between the two.

The Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services (DHSS) has also issued an order halting the giving of the Johnson and Johnson COVID-19 vaccine in the state of Missouri. That order, issued by DHSS Director Dr. Randall Williams, is in effect through December 31st, 2021 unless otherwise modified by DHSS.

Those residents who have received the J&J vaccine who develop severe headache, abdominal pain, leg pain, or shortness of breath within three weeks after vaccination should contact their health care provider. Patients with other clinical questions should contact their health care provider or call the COVID-19 hotline at 877-435-8411.

Those that are slated to receive the Johnson & Johnson vaccine at the ACHD in the near future are now being contacted by representatives of the health department to notify them of the pause. Those residents are being offered the Moderna vaccine in regards to still receiving a vaccine.

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