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NEWS RELEASE

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Johnson & Johnson Vaccine Use Pauses Following FDA and CDC Recommendation

Kern County is following the recommendation of the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to pause the use of the Johnson & Johnson vaccine after reports that six women between the ages of 18 and 48 developed unusual types of blood clots 6 to 13 days after receiving the vaccine. This pause will last until the FDA and CDC complete their review.

This recommended pause is a result of the vaccine safety review process working. Healthcare providers report all health conditions individuals experience following a vaccination into the Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System called VAERS. Experts at the CDC review the reports in VAERS, constantly looking for commonalities in reported health conditions to determine if they could potentially be related to the vaccine. They could also determine a certain underlying health condition poses increased risk from the vaccine for more severe side effects, or the commonalities are simply coincidental.

These reactions are extremely rare, as nearly 7,000,000 people have received the Johnson & Johnson vaccine in the United States to date. People who received the vaccine in the last 3 weeks should look for any symptoms of these unusual clots, including severe headaches, abdominal or leg pain, and shortness of breath, and contact their medical provider if symptoms develop.

Vaccines are still one of the safest ways to build immunity against COVID. Being vaccinated is still highly recommended. Many people don't have any side effects after COVID-19 vaccines, but some people will have pain or swelling at the injection site or fever, chills, or a headache. These typically don't last long and are signs that your body is building protection.

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