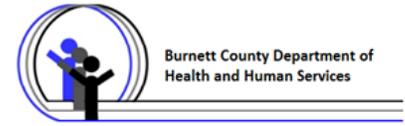




Burnett and Polk County Health Departments



www.polkcountyhealthdept.org
www.burnettcounty.com/81/Public-Health

100 Polk County Plaza, Suite 180 Balsam Lake, WI 54810
7410 County Road K, Suite 280, Siren, WI 54872

Phone 715-485-8400 FAX 715-485-8501
Phone 715-349-7600 FAX 715-349-2140

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – April 13, 2021

CDC, FDA, and WI DHS Issue Statement on Pausing the Use of Johnson & Johnson Vaccinations

The United States Center for Disease Control (CDC), Federal Drug Administration (FDA), and Wisconsin Department of Health Services (WI DHS) issued statements recommending an immediate pause in the use of the Johnson & Johnson vaccine out of an abundance of caution. All upcoming Johnson & Johnson vaccine appointments are being cancelled by vaccinator sites. WI DHS has requested vaccinator sites to properly store Johnson & Johnson vaccine until further notice.

The CDC and FDA are looking at data from six reported cases (out of 6.8 million doses given in the United States) of a rare and severe type of blood clot in individuals who had received the Johnson & Johnson vaccine. Treatment of these specific blood clots is different from the treatment that might typically be administered. Usually, an anticoagulant drug called heparin is used to treat blood clots. As a rare side effect from the Johnson & Johnson vaccine, the administration of heparin may be dangerous and alternative treatments need to be given. This pause is to help the health care system to recognize and treat patients appropriately.

Polk and Burnett County Health Departments are following these recommendations from the CDC, FDA, and WI DHS. We take all reported health problems after vaccination seriously and our top priority is the health and safety of our County residents. To date, Polk and Burnett County Health Departments have vaccinated 1,627 individuals with the Johnson & Johnson vaccine. We will be contacting these individuals to watch for signs of these rare side effects.

What if I received Johnson & Johnson vaccine?

- **Anyone who has received the Johnson & Johnson vaccine within the last three weeks should watch for severe headache, abdominal pain, leg pain, or shortness of breath.** Anyone who has these symptoms should call their doctor right away and seek medical treatment. These side effects are extremely rare.
- **Anyone who has been vaccinated in the last two weeks can also sign up for V-Safe,** <https://vsafe.cdc.gov>, a smartphone-based, post-vaccination health checker program through the CDC, uses text messages and web surveys to check in with people who received a COVID-19 vaccine for the first 14 days after getting vaccinated.

Polk and Burnett County Health Departments continue to urge individuals to get vaccinated for COVID-19. These extremely rare side effects have not been reported in the other two available COVID-19 vaccines (Pfizer and Moderna.) Any individual in need of a COVID-19 vaccine can log onto www.polkcountyhealthdept.org to check for availability.

Even after full COVID-19 vaccine immunity, individuals can test positive and experience COVID-19 symptoms. COVID-19 virus variants are present in our community and are rapidly spreading throughout western Wisconsin and the Twin Cities areas. Polk and Burnett County Health Departments recommend the following best public health practices to stop the spread of COVID-19 after vaccination:

- Staying home as much as possible.
- Staying at least 6 feet from others.
- Wearing a face mask when around others.
- Washing your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds or using hand sanitizer with 60% alcohol.

The latest information for the COVID-19 pandemic can be found on the WI DHS and CDC websites, www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/covid-19 or www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-n-COV.