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CT DPH STATEMENT ON FDA and CDC DECISION TO RESTART USE OF J&J VACCINE

The following is a statement from Acting Department of Public Health Commissioner Dr. Deidre Gifford on yesterday's announcement by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) that administration of the J&J COVID vaccine may resume:

“With the [announcement](#) from the CDC and the FDA, we have advised our vaccine providers to start offering the J&J vaccine again. As the CDC and FDA noted, their enhanced review of this very rare blood clotting event found a total of 15 cases, all in women under the age of 60, out of more than 6.8 million doses of J&J administered. This pause and review will hopefully give people confidence that we take the safety of these vaccines very seriously and are committed to ensuring that they meet the highest safety and effectiveness standards. Revised fact sheets for [providers](#) and [patients](#) have been issued by the FDA and give additional information about the benefits and risks of receiving the J and J vaccine. These will be made available prior to resuming vaccine administration.

The CDC has determined that the known and potential benefits of the J&J vaccine outweigh the known and potential risks. That can be clearly seen here in Connecticut where our case and hospitalization rates and COVID deaths are declining as our vaccinations increase. It is clear that these vaccines are an effective tool in the fight against COVID-19, and we continue to urge all Connecticut residents over the age of 16 to get vaccinated when they can.

With nearly a one in a million chance of developing this rare adverse reaction to the J&J vaccine and no evidence of similar issues with the other two vaccines, Pfizer and Moderna, you are far more likely to become ill or be hospitalized with severe COVID than you are from getting vaccinated. I strongly recommend that all eligible unvaccinated individuals get vaccinated as soon as they can. If you have concerns about the vaccines, please talk to your healthcare provider. We have vaccine providers throughout the state with open appointments ready to vaccinate anyone who wants a shot and makes the choice to take one more step toward a return to normalcy.”

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