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For immediate release

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Nebraska to Pause Johnson & Johnson COVID-19 Vaccine

Panhandle Public Health District (PPHD) and the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) is pausing administration of the Johnson & Johnson/Janssen COVID-19 vaccine, following CDC and FDA recommendations.

On Tuesday, April 13th, CDC and FDA released a joint statement recommending a pause on Johnson & Johnson/Janssen vaccinations nationwide while further investigation is being completed.

Vaccine safety is closely monitored by healthcare providers and local, state, and federal partners. While only six instances of this severe clotting event have been identified among approximately 6.8 million who have received the Johnson & Johnson/Janssen vaccine across the US, the pause is a transparent and deliberate decision to allow time for a thorough review and investigation. Currently, these adverse events appear to be extremely rare, about one in a million people vaccinated have been affected.

DHHS is communicating the pause to local health departments, healthcare providers, and pharmacies across the state. People who have received the Johnson & Johnson vaccine who develop severe headache, abdominal pain, leg pain or swelling, or shortness of breath within three weeks after vaccination should contact their health care provider. Any potential adverse reactions to vaccines should be reported into the CDC's vaccine adverse events reporting system (VAERS, <https://vaers.hhs.gov>).

People who have vaccine appointments with the other two vaccines should continue with their appointment. Our partners will work with those scheduled to receive the Johnson & Johnson vaccine in the days ahead to reschedule.

For more information, see the official FDA-CDC release:

<https://www.fda.gov/news-events/press-announcements/joint-cdc-and-fda-statement-johnson-johnson-covid-19-vaccine>

The Panhandle COVID dashboard is updated weekdays at 4:30 pm MT and available at www.pphd.org. For the most up to date information from the CDC, visit <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>.

Panhandle Public Health District, Region 21, 22, and 23 Emergency Management, and Scotts Bluff County Health Department are working as a unified command on this evolving situation. Essential updates will be regularly communicated to the public and community partners.

Panhandle Public Health District is working together to improve the health, safety, and quality of life for all who live, learn, work, and play in the Panhandle. Our vision is that we are a healthier and safer Panhandle Community. Visit our website www.pphd.org.