



Johnson & Johnson COVID-19 Vaccine FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

CentraCare and Carris Health Pausing Johnson & Johnson Vaccinations

Why did CentraCare pause the use of the Johnson & Johnson COVID-19 vaccine?

Out of an abundance of caution, CentraCare and Carris Health paused the administration of the Johnson & Johnson (also known as Janssen) COVID-19 vaccine following recommendations from the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). This was due to very rare occurrences of blood clots found in younger women who received the Johnson & Johnson COVID-19 vaccination.

As of April 23, 2021, the CDC and FDA recommended use of the Johnson & Johnson vaccine resume in the United States. However, women younger than 50 years old should be aware of the rare risk of blood clots with low platelets after vaccination. Other COVID-19 vaccines are available (Moderna and Pfizer) where this risk has not been seen.

If I get the Johnson & Johnson vaccine, what should I be aware of regarding the small chance of blood clots?

Blood clots, along with low levels of platelets, have occurred in some people who have received the Johnson & Johnson COVID-19 vaccine. In people who developed these blood clots, symptoms began approximately one to two weeks following vaccination. Most people who developed these blood clots were females ages 18 through 49 years. The chance of having this occur is very small.

What are blood clot symptoms and when should I seek medical attention if I received the Johnson & Johnson vaccine?

You should seek medical attention right away if you have any of the following symptoms after receiving the Johnson & Johnson vaccine:

- Shortness of breath
- Chest pain
- Leg swelling
- Persistent abdominal pain
- Severe or persistent headaches or blurred vision
- Easy bruising or tiny blood spots under the skin beyond the site of the injection

Are there any concerns related to the Pfizer and Moderna vaccines?

Based on current research, the Pfizer and Moderna vaccines are considered safe and effective, but there is a small risk of anaphylaxis shortly after vaccination. Our teams have practiced how to respond to anaphylaxis, which generally shows up in the first 15 to 30 minutes after vaccination while our teams are monitoring patients. The blood clot issue in relation to the Johnson & Johnson vaccine is not a concern for the Pfizer and Moderna vaccines at this time.