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Commissioner

April 23, 2021

TO: Points of Dispensing participating in the COVID-19 Vaccination Program

FROM: Judith M. Persichilli, R.N., B.S.N., M.A. Commissioner 

SUBJECT: Resumption of Janssen COVID-19 Vaccine Usage

Administration of the Johnson & Johnson (Janssen) vaccine may continue for persons 18 years of age and older upon the release of the Food and Drug Administration's (FDA) revised emergency use authorization (EUA) with updated fact sheets for patients and for providers.

This memo serves to alert you to the resumption of use of the Janssen vaccine in New Jersey's COVID-19 vaccination effort. **Please share this information with appropriate staff in your vaccination program.**

Thank you for your partnership in this initiative. This memo supplements the other materials circulated by NJDOH regarding the provision, delivery and administration of COVID-19 vaccines. https://www.state.nj.us/health/cd/topics/covid2019_vaccination.shtml. Points of dispensing may contact the New Jersey Department of Health Vaccine Operations Center at Vax.Operations@doh.nj.gov with any further questions.

Timing for continuation of use

COVID-19 vaccination sites in New Jersey may resume use of the Janssen vaccine upon the release of the Food and Drug Administration's (FDA) revised emergency use authorization (EUA) with updated fact sheets for patients and for providers.

The revised materials will be made available here: <https://www.fda.gov/emergency-preparedness-and-response/coronavirus-disease-2019-covid-19/janssen-covid-19-vaccine>

Federal recommendation

The Centers for Disease Control has adopted ACIP's recommendation to continue use of the Janssen COVID-19 vaccine in persons 18 years of age and older in the U.S. population under the FDA's EUA.

On April 14 and April 23, the CDC's Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) completed a rigorous review of the Janssen vaccine and post-authorization cases of thrombosis with thrombocytopenia. Language in the EUA will be revised to reflect risk of rare thrombosis with

thrombocytopenia. More detail on today's meeting can be found here:
<https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/acip/meetings/slides-2021-04-23.html>

Eligible population

In accordance with this recommendation, the Janssen vaccine may be used on people aged 18 and older.

Provider education

Please ensure vaccination providers are well versed in the updated vaccine information, provider fact sheet, and clinical considerations. We expect providers to be prepared to address questions from their patients about the Janssen vaccine. These will be made available here:

- <https://www.fda.gov/emergency-preparedness-and-response/coronavirus-disease-2019-covid-19/janssen-covid-19-vaccine>
- <https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/covid-19/info-by-product/janssen/index.html>
- <https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/index.html>

Additionally, please note the safety reporting information here:

- <https://emergency.cdc.gov/han/2021/han00442.asp>
- <https://vaers.hhs.gov/reportevent.html>
- <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/safety/vsafe.html>
- <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/safety/safety-of-vaccines.html>

Consumer education

Points of dispensing play a critical role in building public confidence in vaccination. Please ensure your patients receive the updated Janssen vaccine information, including the revised patient fact sheet. These will be made available here:

- <https://www.fda.gov/emergency-preparedness-and-response/coronavirus-disease-2019-covid-19/janssen-covid-19-vaccine>