

Good Afternoon:

As you likely are aware , the CDC and FDA have recommended that the U.S. pause the use of the Johnson & Johnson (J&J) COVID-19 vaccine. This recommendation came after six reported cases in the U.S. of women ages 18 to 48 who experienced a rare blood clotting disorder that occurred 6 to 13 days following receipt of the J&J vaccine. To date, nearly 7 million doses of the vaccine have been administered nationwide.

Highmark will continue to monitor this situation closely and how it may affect our members and customers.

It's important to note that members can still get vaccinated with either the Pfizer-BioNTech or Moderna COVID-19 vaccines, neither of which have raised any similar safety concerns.

Q&A

What should members do if they have received the J&J vaccine?

Members who have received this vaccine type and develop severe headache, abdominal pain, leg pain, or shortness of breath within three weeks after vaccination should contact their health care provider for further direction. Do not delay receiving care if you have any of these symptoms.

What if I have an appointment scheduled to get the J&J vaccine?

Most providers are continuing to administer both the Pfizer-BioNTech and Moderna COVID-19 vaccines, neither of which have raised any similar safety concerns.

Members who were scheduled to receive the J&J vaccine should contact the provider they are scheduled with to schedule another appointment for the Pfizer-BioNTech or Moderna COVID-19 vaccine.