Piedmont

April 14, 2021

Community partner,

Many of you may have heard about the decision of the CDC and the FDA to temporarily suspend administration of the Johnson & Johnson (Janssen) vaccine. Any time there is a new vaccine or a new pharmaceutical therapeutic, we may see what's called a "safety signal" after it comes to market. This is not an unusual thing to happen with anything new that hits the market.

The fact that this suspension comes after just six reported U.S. cases of a rare and severe type of blood clot with more than 6.8 million doses given indicates the care and caution officials are taking with the COVID vaccination process. The decision shows that the process in place works, takes into account unexpected events and has patient safety at top of mind.

This is a just a pause so the experts can take a look at what is driving these six cases. The majority of times, the events may not be linked directly to the vaccine itself. We believe this should bolster the public's confidence in the safety of these vaccines.

Nonetheless, if you are experiencing headache, vision changes and/or nausea and vomiting within three weeks of receiving the Johnson & Johnson vaccine, you should contact your healthcare provider for further diagnosis.

Sincerely,

Jayne Morgan, M.D.

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Executive Director, COVID Taskforce