

From: Delaware Health Alert Network

Re: Delaware Health Update #448: Myocarditis Following COVID-19 Vaccination

May 25, 2021

Message:

The Delaware Division of Public Health is resending this information as a Health Update given no proven significantly increased risk for myocarditis from COVID-19 vaccines. This information is intended to enhance early recognition of persons who may develop the condition following vaccination.

Summary

In recent weeks, there have been reports of myocarditis occurring after COVID-19 vaccination, including in Europe mainly following vaccination with mRNA vaccine Comirnaty. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) is aware of these reports, which are rare, given the number of vaccine doses administered, and continues to monitor available data.

The ACIP Vaccine Safety Technical (VaST) Work Group has not identified a causal link, but has concluded that of these few reports, the cases seem to occur:

- predominantly in young adults and adolescents,
- more often in males than females,
- more often following dose 2 than dose 1, and
- typically, within 4 days after vaccination.

Given the extremely rare number of myocarditis cases that may be linked to COVID-19 vaccines, DPH continues to recommend the COVID-19 vaccine in the eligible population as negative outcomes associated with COVID-19 are more likely. Myocarditis is the inflammation of the heart muscle and pericarditis is the inflammation of the lining outside the heart. In both cases, the body's immune system is causing inflammation in response to an infection or some other trigger. While myocarditis can be serious, it is frequently mild and self-limited. Symptoms can include abnormal heart rhythms, shortness of breath, or chest pain.

Background

As part of COVID-19 vaccine safety efforts, CDC is closely monitoring myocarditis/pericarditis in multiple safety systems, including the [Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System \(VAERS\)](#) and the [Vaccine Safety Datalink \(VSD\)](#).

Recommendations

To date, there has not been a safety signal (information on a new or known [adverse event](#) that is potentially caused by a medicine and that warrants further investigation) identified in either VAERS or VSD related to myocarditis/pericarditis. CDC will continue to evaluate reports of myocarditis/pericarditis occurring after COVID-19 vaccination and will share more information as it becomes available.

CDC continues to recommend COVID-19 vaccination for people 12 years and older.

Reporting

Health care providers should consider myocarditis in an evaluation of chest pain after vaccination and [report all cases to VAERS](#).

Additional Information

[COVID-19 VaST Work Group Technical Report — May 17, 2021](#)