

Johnson & Johnson Vaccine: Update and FAQs for Agriculture Workers in SLO County

Out of an abundance of caution, the County of San Luis Obispo is pausing the administration of the Johnson & Johnson COVID-19 vaccine, per the CDC and FDA recommendation today, after six people who received the vaccine developed a serious type of blood clot. Right now, these six cases appear to be extremely rare, it's unclear what caused the clots, and none of the cases were in California. More than 6.8 million doses of the Johnson & Johnson vaccine have been administered in the U.S.

Our organization worked with the County of San Luis Obispo and other partners to provide the Johnson & Johnson vaccine at several recent special events for agriculture workers. We want to be sure to provide the most up-to-date information about this pause for everyone who received the vaccine.

Why is the CDC recommending this pause?

Of the 6.8 million people who have received the Johnson & Johnson vaccine in the U.S., six people have developed a serious type of blood clot. All six cases were in women age 18-48. None of these cases were in California.

While it is not clear if the clot was caused by the vaccine, it is important for health and medical officials to carefully review the cases to understand what happened. We appreciate the attention to these cases.

Why did you provide the Johnson & Johnson vaccine for these events?

The Johnson & Johnson vaccine requires only one dose to be fully vaccinated, while the other approved vaccines require two doses. This single-dose vaccine benefits people who may have trouble returning for a second dose and still wish to be fully vaccinated.

I received the Johnson & Johnson vaccine. Should I be worried?

If you received the J&J vaccine and develop severe headache, abdominal pain, leg pain, or shortness of breath within three weeks after vaccination, you should contact your health care provider. If you have not experienced those symptoms, this news does not mean you need to be concerned. Mild side effects, such as headache or chills for a few days after getting the vaccine, are common and are a sign that the vaccine is working.

How do we know if the vaccine is safe? Did J&J receive the same review as the other vaccines?

All three COVID-19 vaccines available in the U.S. have been through a rigorous testing and review process nationally and additionally by the Western States Scientific Safety Review Workgroup and the State of California.

Now that the vaccine has been given to millions of people and these six cases have been identified, the CDC is convening its Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices, a group of nationally-

recognized scientists, doctors, and public health leaders, to look at these cases and understand if we need to take any additional cautions.

Where can I learn more?

We expect to learn more information in the next several days, especially after the CDC advisory committee meets on Wednesday, April 14. You can find up-to-date information at RecoverSLO.org/Vaccines and CDC.gov. You can also let us know if you have questions – we are happy to help. If you have specific questions about your personal health situation, please contact your regular doctor or health care provider.