

Subject: Response to rare reports about Johnson & Johnson vaccine

Date: Wednesday, April 14, 2021 at 9:37:52 AM Eastern Daylight Time

From: UofL Update

To: UofL Update

Cardinal Community,

Out of an abundance of caution, the Food and Drug Administration and Centers for Disease Control have called for a pause in the administration of the single-dose Johnson & Johnson vaccine due to some rare cases of blood clotting that are being examined. UofL Health, our university's vaccine administrator, does not have concerns with the Johnson & Johnson vaccine but has paused its use of that vaccine to be in accordance with the state and federal health agencies.

UofL Health considers the Johnson & Johnson vaccine to be safe and effective and we urge everyone to not let these rare reports discourage you from getting vaccinated. See below for more details about these rare reports and how UofL Health is responding:

- **It is not certain that the vaccine caused the blood clots.** According to health experts, out of a million women between the ages of 18 and 48, about three to five would develop a blood clot spontaneously. In this case, out of 6.8 million Johnson & Johnson vaccine administrations, six women reported blood clots.
- **The risk of getting and suffering severely from COVID-19 is much greater** than the risk of developing a blood clot. According to health experts, if a million women between the ages of 18 and 48 got COVID-19, 4,000 to 5,000 would get severely sick or die.
- **UofL Health will be using the Pfizer vaccine** at the Cardinal Stadium until further notice to be in accordance with current guidance.
- **UofL Health has not seen any significant reactions to any of the vaccines they've administered,** including the Johnson & Johnson vaccine.
- **Six to 13 days after getting the Johnson & Johnson vaccine,** the CDC says these are the symptoms that would indicate a blood clot: severe headaches, blurred vision, slurred speech, leg swelling and severe abdominal pain. If you develop any of those symptoms, you should contact your healthcare provider or Campus Health Services.

Perspective is important to maintain in this situation, but we of course understand concerns. As Jason Smith, chief medical officer of UofL Health, said Tuesday in a press conference, "This news would not stop me today from getting my wife and kids vaccinated." We strongly encourage all Cardinals to get vaccinated and we enthusiastically support the governor's Team Kentucky Vaccination Challenge to get 2.5 million Kentuckians vaccinated.

We will continue to keep you informed.

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