



For Immediate Release

April 13, 2021

Public Announcement

Fort Defiance Indian Hospital Board, Inc. Pauses the Use of the Johnson and Johnson COVID-19 Vaccine at Tséhootsooí Medical Center

FORT DEFIANCE, AZ: Fort Defiance Indian Hospital Board, Inc. (FDIHB) has paused the use of the Johnson and Johnson (J&J) single-dose COVID-19 vaccine as recommended by the Centers for Disease Control & Prevention in their CDC and FDA Joint Statement on the Johnson & Johnson (J&J) COVID-19 Vaccine released Tuesday, April 13, 2021. This joint statement explains that out of 6.8 million doses of the J&J COVID-19 vaccine given, there has been six (6) reported cases of a rare and severe blood clot in individuals after receiving the J&J COVID vaccine. The CDC will be reviewing these cases and assess their potential significance on Wednesday, April 14, 2021.

Dr. Peter Marks, director of the Food and Drug Administration's Center for Biologics Evaluation and Research, and Dr. Anne Schuchat, principal deputy director of the C.D.C., said in this joint statement that "Right now, these adverse events appear to be extremely rare." and further that "We are recommending a pause in the use of this vaccine out of an abundance of caution."

For individuals who have received the J&J COVID vaccine at Tséhootsooí Medical Center (TMC) we want to emphasize Dr. Marks & Dr. Schuchat words that "these adverse events appear to be extremely rare." At the same, FDIHB takes any reaction from any vaccine or medication seriously and we also want to emphasize that individuals who have received the J&J COVID vaccine within the past 14 days who develop severe headache, abdominal pain, leg pain, swelling in the leg or shortness of breath within three weeks after vaccination should come to TMC Emergency Department.

The full CDC and FDA joint statement can be found/read at this link: <https://www.fda.gov/news-events/press-announcements/joint-cdc-and-fda-statement-johnson-johnson-covid-19-vaccine>

Dallas Ellsworth, Director of Marketing
928.729.8859 | dallas.ellsworth@fdihb.org

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