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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Whiteside County Health Department Pauses Use of Johnson & Johnson COVID-19 Vaccine

April 13, 2020 – Following recent U.S. Centers for Disease Control (CDC), U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Illinois recommendations the Whiteside County Health Department (WCHD) will be pausing the administration of the Johnson & Johnson (J&J) vaccine. This pause is out of an abundance of caution following 6 reported cases of rare blood clots paired with low platelet counts as treatment of these conditions when combined, differs from the standard treatment for blood clots.

CDC and the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) will meet on Wednesday to review these cases and make additional recommendations. Whiteside County was not expecting additional J&J vaccine the next several weeks, and believes this pause will have minimal impact on vaccination operations as we wait for new recommendations.

With more than 6.8 million doses of the J&J vaccine already administered, WCHD would like to remind individuals that this type of complication is likely very rare with symptoms appearing 6 to 13 days after vaccination.

Individuals should expect to have some symptoms immediately following J&J vaccination. Common side effects the following couple of days include pain, redness, swelling, headache, muscle pain, chills, fever and nausea. If these symptoms persist, or individuals who received the J&J vaccine develop severe headache, abdominal pain, leg pain, or shortness of breath within three weeks following vaccination, they should contact their health care provider and let them know they have been recently vaccinated. Health care providers are asked to report adverse effects to the Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System via <https://vaers.hhs.gov/reportevent.html>

We will work with the State to provide updates as they become available.

If you have questions please contact the IDPH COVID-19 hotline at 1-800-889-3931 or reach out to us. Additional information is also available on the [Illinois's COVID-19](#) and [CDC COVID-19](#) websites.

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