

COVID-19 Report to Members ~ April 13, 2021

Reports are sent on Tuesdays, unless there's breaking news.

A pause on Johnson & Johnson vaccine

After receiving notification from the CDC and FDA, IDHW [notified](#) providers today that they recommend a halt to vaccinations with the Johnson & Johnson product.

The federal agencies are reviewing data in cases involving six individuals who suffered rare and severe blood clots following their vaccination. According to the [joint release by the CDC and FDA](#):

"...a type of blood clot called cerebral venous sinus thrombosis (CVST) was seen in combination with low levels of blood platelets (thrombocytopenia). All six cases occurred among women between the ages of 18 and 48, and symptoms occurred 6 to 13 days after vaccination. Treatment of this specific type of blood clot is different from the treatment that might typically be administered. Usually, an anticoagulant drug called heparin is used to treat blood clots. In this setting, administration of heparin may be dangerous, and alternative treatments need to be given."

Individuals who received the Johnson & Johnson vaccine and develop severe headache, abdominal pain, leg pain, or shortness of breath within three week of the vaccination should contact their physician.

Although rare, at this point occurring in six of more than 6.8 million vaccinations, the pause in administering the vaccine should allow for more information to be gathered. The CDC's Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) will meet on Wednesday to review the cases, while the FDA conducts its own review as well.



A JAMA video covering the SARS-CoV-2 variants and how current vaccines work against them.

Reimbursement & Policy

[Telehealth funding opportunity](#)

The FCC is administering a second round of telehealth funding to support providers during the pandemic. Approximately \$250 million will be available to fund telecommunications services, information services, and devices necessary to enable telehealth. A report has been issued and the application window is expected to open by April 30. Interested applicants should obtain an eligibility determination by submitting an [FCC Form 460](#) to the Universal Service Administration.



Dr. Aaron Campbell shares a physician's perspective to help boost vaccine confidence in Idaho as part of a series of resources by IDHW. Hospitals and providers are welcome to use this and the other ads in their efforts to support vaccine confidence.

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