

December 17, 2021

From: Kansas Department of Health and Environment – Division of Public Health

To: Vaccine Providers

RE: CDC Gives Preferred Status to mRNA COVID – 19 Vaccines

On Wednesday December 15, 2021, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) updated the emergency use authorization (EUA) for the Janssen/Johnson and Johnson COVID-19 vaccine with additional precautions related to a blood clotting disorder, Thrombosis with Thrombocytopenia Syndrome (TTS), observed in a wide range of recipients. On Thursday, the ACIP met and recommended that "mRNA COVID-19 vaccines are **preferred** over the Janssen COVID-19 vaccine for the prevention of COVID-19 for all ≥ 18 years of age."

After review of current data, the ACIP determined the following:

- Education about the risk of adverse events, including TTS or Guillain–Barré syndrome (GBS) after the Johnson and Johnson COVID-19 vaccine, is required to guide vaccine decision-making.
- The Johnson and Johnson COVID-19 vaccine may be offered to the following populations:
 - Persons with a contraindication to mRNA COVID-19 vaccines (e.g. severe allergic reaction after a previous dose or to a component of an mRNA COVID-19 vaccine)
 - Persons who otherwise remain unvaccinated for COVID-19 due to limited access to mRNA COVID-19 vaccines
 - Persons who would prefer the Johnson and Johnson COVID-19 vaccine despite safety concerns identified

CDC Director Dr. Rochelle Walensky officially endorsed the recommendation saying, *"We have made important strides in the year since the COVID-19 vaccination program started. More than 200 million Americans have completed their primary vaccine series, providing protection against COVID-19, preventing millions of cases and hospitalizations, and saving over a million lives. Today's updated recommendation emphasizes CDC's commitment to provide real-time scientific information to the American public. I continue to encourage all Americans to get vaccinated and boosted."*

The Kansas Department of Health and Environment supports this updated recommendation for all Kansas vaccine providers to follow. Currently, there is an ample supply of mRNA vaccines and there are no anticipated shortages. All COVID-19 providers are encouraged to order mRNA vaccines as needed. Providers who have questions may contact the Kansas Immunization Program at kdhe.vaccine@ks.gov.

Links to updated Janssen/Johnson and Johnson EUA Fact sheets can be found here:

[Janssen COVID-19 Vaccine - EUA Fact Sheet for Healthcare Providers Administering Vaccine \(janssenlabels.com\)](https://www.janssenlabels.com)

[Janssen COVID-19 Vaccine - EUA Fact Sheet for Recipients and Caregivers \(janssenlabels.com\)](https://www.janssenlabels.com)