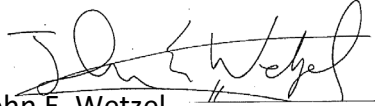




TO: All Inmates

FROM: 
John E. Wetzel
Secretary of Corrections

DATE: April 13, 2021

SUBJECT: Johnson & Johnson Vaccine

This morning the Department of Corrections (DOC) was made aware that the Federal Drug Administration (FDA) has paused the usage of the Johnson & Johnson vaccine due to a concern around blood clotting. Vaccinations using the Johnson & Johnson vaccine will be on hold for seven days as the FDA and CDC investigate the situation.

What we know at this point is that of the 6.8 million Johnson & Johnson vaccines administered throughout the country, 6 women experienced a rare form of clotting shortly after receiving the vaccine. As you may be aware, the department has only used the Moderna vaccine for women in DOC custody.

To date, approximately 17,427 inmates and 1,891 staff members have received the Johnson & Johnson vaccine. 89 of those individuals experienced adverse reactions. Approximately 2,869 inmates and 617 staff members have received the Moderna vaccine with 18 cases of adverse reactions. Unfortunately, we also had one individual with a significant number of comorbidities pass away 48 hours after taking the Johnson & Johnson vaccine. Presently, there is no clear causal relationship between that death and the Johnson & Johnson vaccine, but transparency is key, so we are providing you with the information we have at this time.

Our data does not suggest that the DOC is experiencing an unexpected rate of adverse reactions or adverse reactions more severe than anticipated.

With that being established, the CDC is recommending that people who were given the Johnson & Johnson vaccine who are experiencing severe headache, abdominal pain, leg pain or shortness of breath within three weeks after receiving the shot contact a healthcare professional. While the incidence level is low, notify a nurse or staff person if you are experiencing any of these side effects in the weeks following your vaccine.

Thank you for your cooperation. Stay safe and healthy.