



April 13, 2021

SCPH Media Contact Phone Number: (330) 812-3700

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**Summit County Public Health to Suspend use of Johnson & Johnson vaccine**

[Akron, OH] – In response to the statement by the U.S Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Summit County Public Health (SCPH) is suspending the use of the Johnson & Johnson vaccine at our mass vaccination clinics. Individuals who have received the Johnson & Johnson vaccine who develop severe headache, abdominal pain, leg pain, or shortness of breath within three weeks after vaccination should contact their doctor immediately. The Johnson & Johnson vaccine is an adenovirus vaccine. This type of vaccine uses a modified version of a virus to deliver instructions to cells to make copies of the surface spike protein on SARS-CoV-2. An inactive virus, such as the one that causes the common cold, is used as a transportation device to deliver instructions for making the spike protein. This technology has been around since the 1970's. The same technology is used for the flu and RSV vaccinations.

The pause of the Johnson & Johnson vaccine will not affect the mass vaccination clinics held at the Summit County Fairgrounds, those clinic will continue to run as scheduled. However, the pause will affect the vaccine we are administering at the mass vaccination site. The clinic this Sunday April 18<sup>th</sup> 2021, will be a Pfizer clinic which will require two doses. Individuals will be assigned a second dose date at the time of their first dose. Because it is a mass vaccination situation there is no flexibility in scheduling the second dose appointment. Those individuals who are not able to attend their second dose appointment should not proceed with receiving the first does from the mass vaccination clinic at the fairgrounds. “It remains a priority for us to vaccinate as many individuals as possible. With the State’s support in providing FDA approved vaccine we will continue to vaccinate as planned” Donna Skoda, Health Commissioner, SCPH. Please continue to frequently visit <https://gettheshot.coronavirus.ohio.gov/> to schedule appointments for the mass vaccination site at the Summit County Fairgrounds.

As we continue vaccinate individuals we ask that you continue to engage in safe and effective behaviors to reduce the spread of COVID-19:

- Stay home if you’re sick, even with mild symptoms
- Be mindful in your interactions with others. Limit your chances of exposure by maintaining social distancing of at least six feet from non-household members
- Wear a mask in public
- Consider necessary travel only
  - Follow good hygiene standards:
  - Wash hands frequently with soap and water for at least 20 seconds





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- Use hand sanitizer frequently
- Avoid touching your face
- Cover coughs and sneezes

Additional information regarding J&J vaccine can be found on the FDA and CDC websites at:  
<https://www.fda.gov/news-events/press-announcements/joint-cdc-and-fda-statement-johnson-johnson-covid-19-vaccine>

<https://www.cdc.gov/media/releases/2021/s0413-JJ-vaccine.html>

If you have questions, call the COVID-19 Call Line (330) 926-5795. The call line is open from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. M-F.

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