

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: April 13, 2021

**RAVALLI COUNTY COVID VACCINE UPDATE
PUBLIC HEALTH**

Hamilton, Mont. Earlier today, Public Health received a CDC Health Alert from the State of Montana directing us to 'pause' the administration of the Johnson & Johnson COVID-19 vaccine out of an abundance of caution, pending review of recent reports of side effects relating to a rare type of blood clot experienced by individuals who have received this vaccine. As a result, Public Health has cancelled all previously scheduled appointments for the Johnson & Johnson vaccine for this Thursday, April 15. Administration of the Moderna and Pfizer-BioNTech vaccines will continue as scheduled.

We have full confidence in the process underway at the CDC and FDA to evaluate the information related to these reported cases and assess potential implications on vaccine policy. Public Health will be monitoring this process and will implement any guidance issued that relates to this vaccine.

Montana providers have administered approximately 19,600 doses of the vaccine to date, with no known reports of side effects involving blood clots after administration. However, Montana DPHHS has released information to providers regarding these potential serious side effects, including treatment recommendations.

If you have recently received the Johnson & Johnson vaccine and develop severe headache, abdominal pain, leg pain, or shortness of breath within three weeks after vaccination, contact your healthcare provider, or seek medical care.

Local vaccine providers will be awaiting further information relating to the Johnson & Johnson vaccine, and will evaluate resuming vaccination only after receiving clear guidance and direction from the CDC, FDA, and Montana DPHHS.

####