

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: April 27, 2021

**RAVALLI COUNTY COVID VACCINE UPDATE
PUBLIC HEALTH**

Hamilton, Mont. Beginning this week, Public Health has resumed administering the Johnson & Johnson COVID-19 Vaccine with updated guidance from the CDC and FDA. This vaccine was 'paused' on April 13 out of an abundance of caution, due to concerns relating to reported side effects of blood clots. The new guidance outlines the potential for this type of side effects while allowing the vaccine to be resumed in the United States.

During the pause, medical and scientific teams at the FDA, CDC and Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) examined available data to assess the risks and determined that potential benefits outweighed the potential risks in individuals 18 years of age and older. The available data also suggests that the risk of this type of blood clot is extremely low. Additionally, the FDA and CDC conducted extensive outreach to providers and clinicians to ensure they were made aware of the potential for these adverse events and could properly recognize and manage those events.

Vaccine providers in Ravalli County have continued to make good progress in administering the COVID-19 vaccine. Estimates show that approximately 30% of the eligible population in Ravalli County have received at least the first dose of the vaccine. Many of the local providers have reported a decline in the number of individuals requesting vaccination. If you are interested in receiving the COVID-19 vaccine and have not yet scheduled an appointment, we encourage you to reach out to any of the local providers listed on <https://vaccinefinder.org/>.

The Public Health vaccine clinic has started to see a number of individuals who have not shown up for either a first or second dose appointment. If you have received a first dose of the vaccine from a provider, we strongly encourage you to follow up with that provider for your second dose appointment. If you have received a first dose appointment from any provider and have received a vaccine from a different provider in the meantime, please call and cancel your scheduled second dose appointment. This will assist all of our local providers in ensuring that no doses of the vaccine are wasted.

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