

For Immediate Release:
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**GTCHD vaccinations clinics still being held;
Johnson and Johnson COVID-19 vaccine use paused**

Grand Traverse County Health Department will still hold its COVID-19 clinics this week, but will shift to using Pfizer vaccine.

Per the recommendation of the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services, all previously scheduled Johnson and Johnson COVID-19 vaccine clinics are indefinitely paused. Anyone who previously had a Johnson and Johnson COVID-19 vaccine scheduled through the Grand Traverse County Health Department at Northwestern Michigan College's Hagerty Center today or tomorrow (April 14) will be given the option to keep their appointment and receive the 2-dose Pfizer vaccine.

The pause is being done as the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the Federal Drug Administration review data involving six cases of rare and severe blood clot in individuals after receiving the Johnson and Johnson COVID-19 vaccine. As of April 12, 2021, 6.8-million doses of the Johnson and Johnson COVID-19 vaccine have been administered in the U.S.

CDC will convene a meeting of the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) on Wednesday, April 14, 2021, to further review these cases and assess their potential significance. FDA will review that analysis as it also investigates these cases. Until that process is complete, the Grand Traverse County Health Department is aligning with the recommendation from MDHHS and will pause the use of the Johnson and Johnson vaccine out of an abundance of caution. CDC and FDA will provide additional information and answer questions later today at a media briefing.

"Although we are pausing the use of the Johnson and Johnson vaccine at our clinics at this time, the vaccination team is prepared to administer Pfizer vaccine instead. We encourage people to keep their appointments and get vaccinated against COVID-19," said Health Officer, Wendy Hirschenberger.

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