

Immediate Release:
April 28, 2021

**GTCHD resumes use of Johnson and Johnson COVID-19 vaccine;
Offers walk-ins at NMC's Hagerty Center April 29**

Following the recommendation from the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA), the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), and the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS), the Grand Traverse County Health Department (GTCHD) will resume the use of the Johnson & Johnson (J&J) COVID-19 vaccine for anyone 18 years or older.

On Thursday, April 29, the GTCHD will offer walk-in appointments for the J&J vaccine at Northwestern Michigan College's Hagerty Center (715 E Front St, Traverse City, MI 49686) from 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. No appointments or pre-registration necessary.

The FDA and CDC previously recommended a pause for the J&J vaccine on April 13th while experts conducted a thorough safety review after reports of an extremely rare blood clotting syndrome in some people. The agencies have confidence that this vaccine is safe and effective in preventing COVID-19 and have determined that the available data show that the vaccine's known and potential benefits outweigh its known and potential risks.

As of April 27, 2021, only 45.6% percent of all Grand Traverse County residents aged 16 years or older have completed COVID-19 vaccination (two doses of the Pfizer or Moderna vaccine or one dose of the J&J vaccine). Nearly 60% percent have received at least one or more doses of any of the COVID-19 vaccines.

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