



April 13, 2021

To the Heidelberg Community,

As a follow-up to our announcement this morning based on recommendations by the CDC, FDA, Ohio Governor Mike DeWine, and the Ohio Department of Health to pause using the Johnson & Johnson vaccine, we want to share this important information with our campus community. The information is relevant to the 291 students and 19 faculty, staff, and family members who received the J&J vaccine either on campus during our vaccination clinics in the past week as well as anyone who received the J&J vaccine earlier at another location.

This information is provided by the Ohio Department of Health:

- If you develop a **severe headache, abdominal pain, leg pain, or shortness of breath within three weeks after vaccination**, you should contact your doctor (according to the FDA and CDC statement).
- The Moderna and Pfizer vaccines use a different vaccine technology than the Johnson & Johnson vaccine. There have been no safety concerns with these COVID-19 messenger RNA (mRNA) vaccines.
- The Johnson & Johnson vaccine is an adenovirus vaccine, which 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 one that causes the common cold, is used as a vector (or transportation device) to deliver instructions for making the spike protein. Scientists began using this technology in the 1970s. Besides being used in vaccines, such as flu and RSV, this technology has been studied for gene therapy, to treat cancer, and for molecular biology research. Vaccines using this technology were used during the Ebola outbreak.
- If you experience adverse events from the Johnson & Johnson vaccine, you should report them through the [Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System](#) (VAERS). VAERS, managed by the CDC and FDA, is part of the larger vaccine safety system in the U.S. that helps make sure vaccines are safe. A report to VAERS does not mean that a vaccine caused an adverse event. But VAERS can give CDC and FDA important information to investigate further and take action as needed.
- If you currently have an appointment to receive a Johnson & Johnson vaccine, you should reschedule or cancel your appointment during the pause. Please note: Heidelberg has canceled its scheduled vaccination clinic for this afternoon.

As always, the professional staff at Stoner Health Counseling Center is available to speak with you if you have questions or concerns. You can reach them at 419-448-2041. The Ohio Department of Health call center also is available at 1-833-4-ASK-ODH (1-833-427-5634) and is staffed from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. daily, including weekends.

We continue to monitor this situation, including a press briefing by Gov. DeWine this afternoon and a planned briefing from the CDC and FDA later today. We will be in touch with further developments or important information as they become available.

Sincerely,

Dr. Chris Abrams
Dean of Student Affairs

Janelle Baldosser, CNP
Director of Stoner Health and Counseling Center