



James L. Brown
County Executive Officer

2222 M Street
Merced, CA 95340
(209) 385-7636
(209) 385-7673 Fax
www.countyofmerced.com

Equal Opportunity Employer

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: covid19media@countyofmerced.com

April 13, 2021

JOHNSON & JOHNSON COVID-19 VACCINE PAUSED IN MERCED COUNTY

MERCED COUNTY, CA—Due to extremely rare adverse effects that have been reported as a result of the Johnson & Johnson (J&J) COVID-19 vaccine, those doses are currently being paused at Merced County clinics, including the recently-opened OptumServe vaccination site in Atwater.

To date, more than 6.8 million doses of the J&J vaccine have been administered in the United States. The CDC and FDA are currently reviewing data involving six reported cases of blood clotting in individuals who received the vaccine. Read more [here](#).

This rare side effect is associated with the J&J vaccine only and is not an issue with other available vaccines. The J&J vaccine is only being paused at this time out of an abundance of caution while officials investigate these issues and determine a best course of action moving forward.

While the J&J vaccine is on hold, various Merced County clinics will be canceled. Additional clinics will be scheduled once enough Pfizer/Moderna vaccine is secured. The recently-opened OptumServe vaccination site in Atwater, which was administering the J&J vaccine, will be closed until further notice. Anyone who was previously signed up for a now-canceled vaccination appointment will be notified via text message of the cancellation and encouraged to sign up for upcoming clinics.

Anyone who would like to receive vaccination moving forward is encouraged to schedule an appointment at MyTurn.ca.gov.

As a reminder, it is still a **local and statewide mandate** to wear a cloth face covering inside of, or in line to enter any indoor public space, or when unable to maintain six feet for social distancing. Merced County health officials strongly urge all residents to exercise the following safety measures to reduce the spread of COVID-19:

- ✓ Clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces
- ✓ Practice social distancing
- ✓ Wash hands with soap and warm water for 20 seconds
- ✓ Use hand sanitizer with 60 percent alcohol base when handwashing is not possible
- ✓ Stay home and isolate if you are feeling sick

For more information regarding COVID-19 vaccines in Merced County: www.countyofmerced.com/vaccines

– 30 –

For more information regarding Merced County, please visit our website at www.countyofmerced.com