



## COVID-19 update

Keeping you informed

The US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) [recommended a pause of the use of Johnson & Johnson's \(Janssen\) COVID-19 vaccine](#) in response to six reported US cases of a "rare and severe" type of blood clot. While these cases are extremely rare, health care experts are erring on the side of caution until they are able to fully examine the data and gain more understanding. Individuals who have received the Johnson & Johnson vaccine in the past two to three weeks should watch for symptoms and contact their healthcare provider immediately if experiencing symptoms of blood clots such as severe headache, abdominal pain, leg pain, shortness of breath, or if they experience stroke like symptoms such as blurred vision, numbness or weakness of an arm or leg, confusion, fainting, or seizures.

This pause occurs just when many California counties and states nationwide have expanded eligibility for COVID-19 vaccination to all individuals ages 16 and over, further complicating vaccine administration and widening the gap between supply and demand.

Vaccine supply will continue to be dispensed with Pfizer and Moderna which are mRNA vaccines. [Learn more about how mRNA vaccines revolutionized immunization](#). Johnson & Johnson's vaccine is a modified viral vector vaccine and may be linked to a small increase in chance of blood clots among some individuals. The AstraZeneca vaccine, not available in the United States but offered in more than 70 other countries, is also a modified viral vector vaccine and has had reports of blood clots.

Although the decrease in supply will likely slow the rate of vaccinations for Californians, Blue Shield is continuing to make progress with the statewide distribution network, and the capacity is [now more than six million per week](#). Read more about the potential of public-private partnerships in ensuring more efficient and equitable vaccine distribution, [here](#), on our News Center.

Our [B2B COVID website](#) is updated to reflect county by county and state by state vaccine

status, as well as links to all major pharmacy vaccination sites. Additional resources, such as articles and materials for addressing vaccine hesitancy, are also available on this site.

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