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**DEPARTMENT OF  
HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES**  
DIVISION OF PUBLIC AND BEHAVIORAL HEALTH  
*Helping people. It's who we are and what we do.*



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## Technical Bulletin

**Date:** December 22, 2021  
**Topic:** Preferential Recommendations for mRNA COVID-19 Vaccines  
**Contact:** Susan Vilardi, RN, Nevada State Immunization Program  
**To:** All Health Care Providers and Facilities; Local Health Authorities; Pharmacists

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### Background:

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) met on December 16, 2021, concerning the risk of Thrombosis with Thrombocytopenia Syndrome (TTS) and Guillain-Barré Syndrome (GBS) following the receipt of the Janssen (Johnson and Johnson) COVID-19 vaccine. The data presented to ACIP shows that COVID-19 mRNA vaccines have higher effectiveness and are associated with fewer severe adverse events than the Janssen (Johnson & Johnson) COVID-19 vaccine, receipt of which continues to be associated with an elevated risk of TTS and a substantially higher risk of GBS. The ACIP voted unanimously to give a preferential recommendation to the COVID-19 mRNA vaccines produced by Pfizer-BioNTech and Moderna for those ages 18 years and older, given their greater effectiveness and stronger safety profile.

### Key Considerations Regarding the Preferential Recommendation for mRNA COVID-19 Vaccines:

- Individuals who are unable or unwilling to receive an mRNA COVID-19 vaccine should continue to have access to the J&J COVID-19 vaccine following a thorough review of the vaccine's risk for the rare adverse risk of TTS.
- Vaccinating providers can still choose to order the J&J COVID-19 vaccine from the Nevada State Immunization Program.
- The benefits of receiving the J&J COVID-19 vaccine continue to outweigh the known risks compared to not receiving any COVID-19 vaccine.
- Individuals who have already received a primary single dose and booster dose of the J&J COVID-19 vaccine do not need to be revaccinated with a mRNA COVID-19 vaccine.
- Individuals who developed TTS after receiving one dose of the J&J COVID-19 vaccine should not receive a booster dose of the J&J COVID-19 vaccine. These individuals are recommended to receive a booster dose of an mRNA COVID-19 vaccine (e.g., Pfizer or Moderna).
- Individuals who received an initial J&J COVID-19 vaccine dose, and who did not experience any adverse events, are recommended to receive an mRNA COVID-19 vaccine for their booster dose.
- As always, patients should seek advice from a trusted health care provider when deciding which COVID-19 vaccine product is right for their situation.

### Resources:

- [Interim Clinical Considerations for COVID-19 Vaccines](#)
- [Janssen COVID-19 Vaccine EUA Fact Sheet Updates from the U.S. Food and Drug Administration](#)

- [ACIP Presentation Slides: December 16, 2021 Meeting](#)

*Questions:*

*For updated guidance, please review the DPBH Technical Bulletin [website](#) and the Nevada Health Response [website](#) regularly. If you have other questions regarding the preferential recommendation for mRNA COVID-19 vaccines, please email [dpbhcovid19vax@health.nv.gov](mailto:dpbhcovid19vax@health.nv.gov).*



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