



If a statement about the COVID vaccine sounds crazy, it probably is! Examples: COVID vaccine contains HIV. or The COVID vaccine is the mark of the beast. ~ Mark Peterson

CHAP Weekly Update

April 16, 2021

Physicians Share COVID-19 Vaccination Efforts

Attitudes Toward Vaccination

Alaska physicians described some emerging attitudes toward vaccination in their regions. People generally fell into three groups:

“Eager” Group: People eager to get the vaccine, watching and waiting for their opportunity

- Almost all of them have now been vaccinated.



“Want Convenience” Group: Includes people planning to get the vaccine, but wanting convenient locations and/or times

- Regions have accommodated their needs by offering vaccines through both appointment and walk-in clinics, expanding sites to include stores, post offices, city halls, airports, and home visits.
- These strategies have been successful and many people in this group have received their vaccines.

“Hesitant / Need convincing” Group: Includes people who are not planning to get the vaccine

- Common reasons include concerns about safety and efficacy.
- Many concerns are based on rumors and myths that circulate through communities and social media.
- Includes people who have not yet been impacted by COVID-19 (villages with very few cases or few bad cases). Vaccination seems less important to them than in villages that have experienced multiple deaths from COVID-19.
- As more people they know get vaccinated, hesitant people grow more comfortable with the idea of being vaccinated.



Strategies that Work

CHA/Ps have served a critical role in educating their communities about the COVID-19 vaccine and helping to increase the rate of immunization. Here are some effective strategies:

- Get the message out
 - ◊ Phone calls or speaking one on one with community members
 - ◊ Social media (Facebook), radio, print media
- Incentives (cash, drawings/prizes, money off of gas/electric/food bills, less restrictive no test travel and social restrictions, etc.)
- Bad information ranges from misunderstandings to ridiculous/harmful information. The advice to mitigate this is: be proactive with the positives, stick with facts, provide accurate information and trusted resources, be patient/kind/caring



Resources:



[COVID-19 Vaccine Message Maps and FAQs](#)

[UNICEF: Vaccine Misinformation Management Field Guide](#)

[WHO: How to report misinformation online](#)

Thank you to the physicians who shared updates about COVID-19 Vaccination efforts from their regions:

- Ellen Hodges, YK
- Mark Peterson, Norton Sound
- Donna Galbreath, SCF
- Shanda Lohse, EA Tribes



Let us know what you think! aka-CHAPCOVID-19weeklyupdates@anthc.org

Send questions for presenters and each other, and suggest topics for discussion.



ALASKA NATIVE TRIBAL HEALTH CONSORTIUM



CHAP Weekly Update

April 16, 2021

The Johnson & Johnson Vaccine:

 The CDC and FDA have recommended a “pause” in the use of the Johnson & Johnson vaccine (4/13/2021)

This “pause” is ONLY for the Johnson & Johnson vaccine. It does NOT affect the Pfizer or Moderna vaccines. The pause is based on “an abundance of caution” after six people who received the Johnson & Johnson vaccine experienced a rare and severe type of blood clot, a cerebral venous sinus thrombosis (CVST). The six people who experienced this were all women, ages 18 to 48, and all developed the CVST between six and 13 days after receiving the vaccine.

To put this into perspective, more than 6.8 million doses of the Johnson & Johnson vaccine have been administered in the US and only six cases of CVST have been reported. It is not clear if the CVST cases are related to the vaccine.

The Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) met on April, 14, where they decided not to vote on making additional pause recommendations. They decided to meet again soon when they have more data on potential cases of serious adverse effects of the Johnson & Johnson vaccine.

Remember: COVID is BAD and vaccines are GOOD. Over 500,000 people in the US have died from the COVID-19 infection. COVID was the third most common cause of death in the US last year.

Resources:

[Joint CDC and FDA Statement on Johnson & Johnson COVID-19 Vaccine](#)

[State of Alaska, Press Release](#)

Alaska Vaccine Updates

- Alaska is **No. 1** in the US in percent of population fully vaccinated
- Anyone living or working in Alaska age 16 or older can be vaccinated at no cost. COVID-19 vaccines authorized for emergency use are safe and effective.
- Alaskans fully vaccinated: **38.7 %**
- Alaskans vaccinated with 1+ doses: **46.9%**



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COVID BY THE NUMBERS

- Alaska cases as of April 8, 2021: **65,008**
- Alaska COVID-19 deaths: **300**
- Alaska average daily cases: **23.9** per 100,000 people.
Very large number of new cases
- More information at [Coronavirus.dhss.alaska.gov](https://www.coronavirus.dhss.alaska.gov)



SAVE THE DATE



April 20, 2021

Dr. Elisha Brownson will give a presentation “Burn Care in the Village.” Presenters will also provide a short update on the Johnson & Johnson “pause”.

April 27, 2021

More information and updates about COVID-19.

COVID-19 Vaccines for Children

It is anticipated that the Pfizer and Moderna vaccines will be approved and available for children 12 and older within the next several weeks. Younger children may be included as early as this winter.



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