CDC & FDA recommend pausing administration of J&J vaccine - FAQ

What is happening?
On April 13, 2021, the CDC and FDA recommended pausing the use of the Johnson & Johnson (Janssen) vaccine out of an abundance of caution. Novant Health is following this recommendation and has stopped administering these vaccines.

Why did the CDC/FDA recommend pausing administration of J&J?
There have been six reported U.S. cases of a rare and severe type of blood clot in individuals after receiving the J&J vaccine. In these cases, a type of blood clot called cerebral venous sinus thrombosis (CVST) was seen in combination with low levels of blood platelets (thrombocytopenia). All six cases occurred among women between the ages of 18 and 48, and symptoms occurred 6 to 13 days after vaccination.

What happens next?
CDC will convene a meeting of the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) on Wednesday to further review these cases and assess their potential significance. FDA will review that analysis as it also investigates these cases.

What do I do if I received the J&J (Janssen) vaccine?
The adverse events appear to be extremely rare. People who have received the J&J vaccine who develop severe headache, abdominal pain, leg pain, or shortness of breath within three weeks after vaccination should contact their health care provider.

What do I do if I am scheduled for a J&J (Janssen) vaccine?
Anyone scheduled to receive the Johnson & Johnson vaccine will be offered a Pfizer or Moderna vaccine in its place or will be rescheduled, depending on availability and patient preference. Patients will be contacted with more information.