The Food and Drug Administration has recommended pausing the use of the Janssen (Johnson and Johnson) vaccine after the administration of 6.8 million doses across the United States. This temporary pause will allow officials to investigate preliminary reports regarding the development of a rare type of blood clot in six individuals. This condition is extremely rare – less than one person per one million doses given. Data indicates all six cases occurred in women with low blood platelets ages 18 to 48 years old, six to thirteen days after vaccination.

Out of an abundance of caution, Lincoln Trail District Health Department will be pausing planned clinics utilizing the Janssen vaccine as recommended by the FDA and the CDC until further notice. However, the Moderna clinics will continue as scheduled.

The Moderna vaccine works differently than the Janssen vaccine by utilizing Messenger RNA technology. Messenger RNA teaches our cells how to make a protein—or even just a piece of a protein—that triggers an immune response inside our bodies. That immune response, which produces antibodies, protects us from getting infected if the actual virus enters our bodies (Centers for Disease Control).

There is no indication when officials will lift this temporary pause. Patients with appointments for canceled clinics will be notified using the contact information submitted at the time the appointment was scheduled. We ask for the continued patience of the public. As more information becomes available, we will notify the public with our media partners' assistance via the newspaper, radio, and tv. Individuals can also visit our website at www.lttdhd.org for the latest updates.