



MISSISSIPPI STATE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

**This is an official
MS Health Alert Network (HAN) Alert**

MESSAGE ID: MSHAN-20210528-00520-ALT (Health Alert)

RECIPIENTS: All Physicians, Hospitals, ERs, ICPs, NPs, and
Healthcare Providers – Statewide

Friday, May 28, 2021

SUBJECT: Increased Cases of Myocarditis and Pericarditis after
Receipt of mRNA COVID-19 Vaccines among
Adolescents and Young Adults

Dear colleagues,

- The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) is reporting increased cases of myocarditis and pericarditis since April 2021 reported after mRNA COVID-19 vaccinations, particularly in older adolescents (16 and older) and young adults.
- Reported cases are predominantly among male adolescents and young adults 16 years of age and older.
- Onset has been within several days after mRNA COVID-19 vaccination; more so after second dose.
- Most cases who have presented to medical care have had a rapid recovery and have responded well to medications and rest.
- An investigation by CDC into these rare reports is ongoing; a clear association has not yet been established.
- No similar increases have been seen post receipt of Johnson and Johnson COVID-19 vaccine.
- In Mississippi, more than 1.8 million doses of mRNA vaccine have been administered.
- The Mississippi State Department of Health (MSDH) is in the process of evaluating the Vaccine Adverse Events Reporting System (VAERS) to identify potential myocarditis or pericarditis cases after mRNA COVID-19 vaccination.

Mississippi Physician and Provider Recommendations:

- Consider myocarditis and pericarditis in adolescents or young adults with acute chest pain, shortness of breath, or palpitations.
- Ask about prior COVID-19 vaccination if you identify these symptoms or cases of myocarditis or pericarditis.
- It is important to rule out other potential causes of myocarditis and pericarditis. Consider consultation with infectious disease and/or rheumatology to assist in this evaluation.
 - Where available, evaluate for potential etiologies of myocarditis and pericarditis, particularly acute COVID-19 infection (e.g., PCR testing), prior SARS-CoV-2 infection (e.g., detection of SARS-CoV-2 nucleocapsid antibodies), and other

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viral etiologies (e.g., enterovirus PCR and comprehensive respiratory viral pathogen testing).

- Report all cases of myocarditis and pericarditis post COVID-19 vaccine to VAERS ([VAERS - Report an Adverse Event \(hhs.gov\)](https://vaers.hhs.gov))
- Continue to recommend COVID-19 vaccination for everyone 12 years of age and older given the greater risk of other serious complications related to COVID-19, such as hospitalization, multisystem inflammatory syndrome in children (MIS-C), or death.

Please see the following CDC resources for additional information

- **Clinical Considerations:** [“Clinical Considerations: Myocarditis and Pericarditis after Receipt of mRNA COVID-19 Vaccines Among Adolescents and Young Adults”](#)
- **Public Content:** [“Myocarditis and Pericarditis Following mRNA COVID-19 Vaccination”](#)

Regards,

Paul Byers, MD
State Epidemiologist



Alerting Message Specification Settings

Originating Agency: Mississippi State Department of Health
Alerting Program: MS Health Alert Network (MS HAN)
Message Identifier: MSHAN-20210528-00520-ALT
Program (HAN) Type: Health Alert
Status (Type): Actual ()
Message Type: Alert
Reference: MSHAN-00520
Severity: Unknown
Acknowledgement: No
Sensitive: Not Sensitive
Message Expiration: Undetermined
Urgency: Undetermined
Delivery Time: 600 minutes

Definition of Alerting Vocabulary and Message Specification Settings

Originating Agency: A unique identifier for the agency originating the alert.

Alerting Program: The program sending the alert or engaging in alerts and communications using PHIN Communication and Alerting (PCA) as a vehicle for their delivery.

Message Identifier: A unique alert identifier that is generated upon alert activation (MSHAN-yyymmdd-hhmm-TTT (**ALT=Health Alert**, **ADV=Health Advisory**, **UPD=Health Update**, **MSG/INFO=Message/Info Service**)).

Program (HAN) Type: Categories of Health Alert Messages.

Health Alert: Conveys the highest level of importance; warrants immediate action or attention.

Health Advisory: Provides important information for a specific incident or situation; may not require immediate action.

Health Update: Provides updated information regarding an incident or situation; unlikely to require immediate action.

Health Info Service: Provides Message / Notification of general public health information; unlikely to require immediate action.

Status (Type):

- Actual: Communication or alert refers to a live event
- Exercise: Designated recipients must respond to the communication or alert
- Test: Communication or alert is related to a technical, system test and should be disregarded



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Message Type:

Alert: Indicates an original Alert
Update: Indicates prior alert has been Updated and/or superseded
Cancel: Indicates prior alert has been cancelled
Error: Indicates prior alert has been retracted

Reference: For a communication or alert with a Message Type of “Update” or “Cancel”, this attribute contains the unique Message Identifier of the original communication or alert being updated or cancelled. “n/a” = Not Applicable.

Severity:

Extreme: Extraordinary threat to life or property
Severe: Significant threat to life or property
Moderate: Possible threat to life or property
Minor: Minimal threat to life or property
Unknown: Unknown threat to life or property

Acknowledgement: Indicates whether an acknowledgement on the part of the recipient is required to confirm that the alert was received, and the timeframe in which a response is required (Yes or No).

Sensitive:

Sensitive: Indicates the alert contains sensitive content
Not Sensitive: Indicates non-sensitive content

Message Expiration: Undetermined.

Urgency: Undetermined. Responsive action should be taken immediately.

Delivery Time: Indicates the timeframe for delivery of the alert (15, 60, 1440, 4320 minutes (.25, 1, 24, 72 hours)).