UPDATE ON MODERNA'S COVID-19 VACCINE

- On January 17, 2021, the California Department of Public Health reported that a shipment of 330,000 Moderna vaccines may have been associated with possible severe allergic reactions in fewer than 10 people.
- These individuals were given the vaccine from one of the lot of vaccines, Lot#41L20A, which was administered to one clinic in Southern California.
- Out of an abundance of caution, the state health department held the administration of Lot#41L20A on January 17, 2021.
- On January 21, 2021, the California State Epidemiologist Dr. Erica S. Pan lifted this hold and recommended immediately resuming use of vaccines from this batch.
- The San Diego County public health department, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Food and Drug Administration, and Moderna found no scientific reason to continue the hold. The Western States Scientific Safety Review Committee, along with allergy and immunology specialists agree.
- While these allergic reactions are concerning, it demonstrates that the measures to ensure vaccine safety in California are working properly.

The Moderna and Pfizer vaccines have mild and temporary side effects, including pain at the injection site, headache, fever, fatigue, chills, and muscle and joint pain. Individuals with severe allergic reactions to other vaccines should consult their doctor in case they may be allergic to a component of these vaccines. They should be observed for 30 minutes following injection rather than the usual 15 minutes. It is recommended that individuals who carry an EpiPen for their allergies should bring it to their appointment. CDC notes that women who are pregnant or breastfeeding can be presented the option to vaccinate, but first talk to your health care practitioner if you have any concerns about whether you should receive it.

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