

5/25/2021

*\* NOTICE: This health alert provides written guidance for health care professionals and others who may need to take action to prevent or control a notifiable condition. It is not intended to provide guidance for the general public.*

## **Myocarditis or Pericarditis after COVID-19 Vaccination**

### **Actions Requested:**

- Consider a diagnosis of myocarditis or pericarditis in any evaluation of chest pain following COVID-19 vaccination.
- Inquire about recent COVID-19 vaccination in any patient presenting with symptoms consistent with myocarditis or pericarditis (chest pain or pressure, or shortness of breath, EKG abnormalities).
- Report such cases promptly to the U.S. Vaccine Adverse Events Reporting System (VAERS: <https://vaers.hhs.gov/reportevent.html>). It is recommended that the evaluating (not administering) provider report the incident to VAERS so that appropriate clinical details can be reported accurately.

### **Background:**

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and The Washington State Department of Health (DOH) are aware of reports of a small number of cases of myocarditis or pericarditis in some patients, post-vaccination. Further investigation is needed to determine if these cases are connected in any way to COVID-19 vaccines. Providers are asked to report any suspected cases to VAERS: <https://vaers.hhs.gov/reportevent.html>.

To support ongoing monitoring for this potential adverse event, Thurston County Public Health and Social Services asks that providers evaluate for myocarditis or pericarditis following vaccination and report any such cases promptly to VAERS. Providers are asked to report any cases with symptoms within the two weeks following vaccination, including first and second doses of vaccine.

Clinical features of myocarditis and pericarditis include chest pain or pressure, shortness of breath, electrocardiogram (EKG) changes and elevated cardiac biomarkers. Providers should elicit a detailed history including vaccination status and potential exposures to COVID-19. Patients should be tested for COVID-19 infection using a molecular (PCR) test.

Common side effects after receiving the COVID-19 vaccines include soreness at the injection site, fatigue, and headache. Less common side effects include muscle aches, chills, joint pain, vomiting, and fever. Most symptoms resolve within 72 hours.

# COMMUNICABLE DISEASE UPDATE

COMMUNICABLE DISEASE CONTROL AND PREVENTION SECTION  
THURSTON COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT  
412 LILLY RD NE  
OLYMPIA, WA, 98506-5132  
DISEASE REPORTING: (360)786-5470



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**Resources:**

Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System: <https://vaers.hhs.gov/reportevent.html>

Center for Disease Control Prevention COVID-19: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/>

Thurston County COVID-19: <https://www.thurstoncountywa.gov/phss/Coronavirus>

**THANK YOU FOR REPORTING**

**TO REPORT A NOTIFIABLE CONDITION IN THURSTON COUNTY**

Voice mail for reporting <b>non-immediately reportable conditions (24 hours a day)</b>	Phone: 360-786-5470 Fax: 360-867-2601
<b>Day time immediately reportable conditions</b> – Call detailed information to the 24-hour Notifiable Condition Reporting Line at 360-786-5470. Messages are picked up hourly. If a call back can't wait call 360-867-2500 and ask staff to locate a Communicable Disease staff.	Phone: 360-786-5470
<b>After hours immediately and 24-hour reportable conditions or a public health emergency</b>	Call 1-800-986-9050
No one is available with Thurston County Public Health and condition is <b>immediately notifiable</b>	1-877-539-4344

Communicable Disease Updates are posted online at: <http://bit.ly/CDUpdatePHSS>