



White House says J&J pause will not have a 'significant impact' on vaccination plan

SCOTT THUMAN

April 13th 2021

A massive number of doses slated for arms have now put on pause over fears that in less than one in 1,000,000 cases, the Johnson & Johnson vaccine could cause blood clots.

Volume 90%

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The White House is now trying to control the messaging on vaccines after the major development that the FDA advised a temporarily halting of those shots.

That concern is doing damage to the administration's message that the vaccines are safe and effective.

But for those who are vaccine hesitant, any growth in skepticism makes it a tougher sell.

This certainly concerns me because we've been making a lot of progress at getting people overcoming vaccine hesitancy," said Dr. Jeffrey Singer, a senior fellow at the Cato Institute. "More and more people have been seeing how their friends and relatives have been getting the vaccine without problems...and this is not the kind of thing we want to hear on the news at this time.

As of last month, 30% of Americans polled said they don't plan to get vaccinated. The biggest demographics: white Republican men and white Evangelical Christians.

That could be based on long-term mixed messaging involving overall COVID-19 safety dating back to masks.

"I just don't want to wear one myself. It's a recommendation," said former President Donald Trump in April of last year.

Now the worry is that this setback could put the US further away from herd immunity.

We do need to continue to build confidence, and that's done at the community level, neighbors, faith leaders, doctors," said Jeff Zients, the White House Covid Response Coordinator.

The White House was already trying to strengthen its messaging by investing \$3 billion into community organizations, as well as partnering with groups like Nascar and the country music industry to promote shots.