



## **CDC continues pause on J&J: 'Get this thing out,' says doctor**

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The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has delayed making a decision about the Johnson and Johnson vaccine for at least a week, citing a need for data expected to come in the next two weeks on the possible link to extremely rare and dangerous blood clots.

“They're waiting to see if there are any more cases and any other types of adverse reactions,” said Dr. Jeffrey Singer to The National Desk’s Jan Jeffcoat. “I think this definitely is related to the vaccine, but this is less than one in a million cases. This is the kind of thing that it takes, usually, millions of vaccinations to even discover since it's less than 1 in a million.”

Dr. Singer disagrees with the CDC’s vote to delay the decision, saying instead that they should recommend those 60 and younger not receive the vaccine.

“They should get this thing out,” said Dr. Singer.

Pfizer’s CEO said Thursday that a third booster shot of the vaccine will likely be needed within 12 months of getting fully vaccinated, and could possibly be a yearly shot.

“It could even turn out, we could get lucky, to be every couple of years, but usually these kinds of viruses, they do mutate, variants develop and eventually the vaccines become less effective. So it's important to update them just like happens with the flu shots,” said Dr. Singer. “The good news about these mRNA vaccines, they're apparently very able to very quickly develop new vaccines to respond to the new variants, so it's great to know that the pharmaceutical companies are on top of this.”

With a rise in COVID cases around the country, with Michigan a current COVID hotspot as some hospitals reach capacity levels, Dr. Singer says the rise may be due to lifts in restrictions.

“Some people think that by keeping people isolated all that time it actually prevented people from getting exposed, so there’s all this new kindling for the virus as they’re starting to emerge from isolation,” said Dr. Singer. “I think the thing to do is to keep vaccinating, encourage the younger people to still practice social distancing, wear masks, don't get too cocky.”