



Alameda County Health Advisory

Cases of Myocarditis/Pericarditis after Receipt of mRNA Vaccines

May 25, 2021

On May 17th, the CDC Vaccine Safety Technical (VaSt) Work Group [released a statement](#) on reports of myocarditis following mRNA vaccines. VaST concluded that there are relatively few reports of myocarditis to date and that these cases seem to occur:

- predominantly in adolescents and young adults,
- more often in males than females,
- more often following dose 2 than dose 1, and
- typically within 4 days after vaccination.

Most cases appear to be mild, and follow-up of cases is ongoing. Within CDC safety monitoring systems, rates of myocarditis reports in the window following COVID-19 vaccination have not differed from expected baseline rates. Myocarditis and pericarditis can also be clinical features of COVID-19 infection.

Actions requested of clinicians:

- **Inquire about recent COVID-19 vaccination AND COVID-19 exposure in any patient presenting with signs or symptoms consistent with myocarditis or pericarditis** (i.e. chest pain or pressure, arrhythmias/palpitations, shortness of breath, EKG abnormalities, or elevated cardiac biomarkers).
- Test these patients for COVID-19 infection using a PCR test.
- Report cases of myocarditis or pericarditis after vaccination promptly to the U.S. [Vaccine Adverse Events Reporting System \(VAERS\)](#).
- Continue to encourage COVID-19 vaccination in your patients, as the benefits far outweigh the risks.