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California Health Officials Call for Pause of Batch of Moderna Vaccine After Severe Allergic Reaction in Higher Than Usual Number of Recipients

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Health Officials in California have asked that administration of a particular batch of the Moderna vaccine sent in counties across the state be paused pending an investigation, after a higher than usual number of recipients had severe allergic reactions.

In a statement issued by the California Dept. of Health (CDPH) Sunday, state health officials recommended that local providers pause administration of lot 41L20A of Moderna's Covid-19 vaccine, after "fewer than 10" recipients at one community center required medical attention over a 24-hour period last week. The statement said the victims appeared to be suffering a severe allergic reaction after receiving the dose.

The lot, which includes more than 330,000 doses of the vaccine, was being reviewed by federal health and drug officials, and local officials have adhered to the request of pausing administration until the lot's safety has been assessed.

Moderna said it is aware of the report and is cooperating with CDPH in investigating the matter. The company said it was unaware of such adverse effects from other sites that may have administered vaccine doses from the same lot.

"Out of an extreme abundance of caution and also recognizing the extremely limited supply of vaccine, we are recommending that providers use other available vaccine inventory and pause the administration of vaccines from Moderna Lot 041L20A until the investigation by the CDC, FDA, Moderna and the state is complete," said State Epidemiologist Dr. Erica S. Pan on Sunday. "We will provide an update as we learn more."