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YOUR SAFETY MATTERS

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Supervising Licensee, NJ Hearing Aid Dispensers Albert DeVarti #884, Dorothy J Fry BC-HIS, ACA #865, Albert Shrive A.U.D. #662

*If you are not completely satisfied, the aids may be returned in a satisfactory condition within 45 days for a full refund. Fitting fee may apply. **Hearing test is always free. Hearing test is an audiometric test to determine proper amplification needs only, not a medical exam.

CODE: UD116966

VACCINES

Biden to boost vaccine supply with 100M more J&J doses

Continues from A1

August under the Trump administration, included an option for as many as an additional 200 million doses. A J&J spokesman said the company remains on track to deliver its first 100 million doses — though it hasn't publicly committed to delivering all or nearly all of them by May, as Biden has said. J&J has promised them by the end of June.

"The U.S. government has the option to purchase additional doses under a subsequent agreement. We look forward to any future discussions with the U.S. government and to participating in the event at the White House later today," J&J spokesman Jake Sargent said.

Even as U.S. vaccinations speed up, uncertainty remains. Rochelle Walensky, director of the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, said in a briefing Wednesday that health officials are still unsure how long vaccine protection lasts. Anthony Fauci, a Biden COVID-19 adviser who leads the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, said Wednesday he expects high school students to be able to be vaccinated this fall, but said studies on safety for several groups are ongoing.

The new J&J doses will be available in the second half of the year, though specific timing will be part of negotiations to finalize the deal, said Biden coronavirus adviser Andy Slavitt. The order follows last week's announcement of the historic Merck and J&J partnership, which was facilitated by the Biden administration and will materially affect production of the single-shot, easily stored vaccine in the second half of the year.

"He's doing this because in a wartime effort, which is what we consider this, we need maximum flexibility," White House press secretary Jen Psaki said. The uncertainties include which vaccine will be best for kids, as well as whether booster shots will be recommended or if variants will require new rounds of inoculations, she said.

"We want to be oversupplied and over-prepared," she said at Wednesday's press briefing. "There's also a chance that we'll encounter an unexpected challenge on new need in our vaccination efforts,



President Joe Biden announces that the government will purchase 100 million more doses of the Johnson & Johnson COVID-19 vaccine. Alex Wong, Getty Images

and we are preparing for just that."

The order was previewed by other moves: the agreement between the companies, and a side deal between Merck and the U.S. government under which it will overhaul some plants to boost vaccine production, including for J&J, and other medicines.

While Biden has credited his administration for facilitating the deal, the companies had been in talks before his inauguration, and those talks accelerated after Jan. 25 when Merck abandoned its own vaccine program. J&J's shot was authorized about a month later, and the companies' deal was announced by Biden days after that.

The U.S. is aiding the partnership by investing in Merck's facilities and using the Defense Production Act, a wartime power, to secure equipment, the official said. The production will eventually be distributed globally and boost global supply, the official said.

With the order, the U.S. is expecting 200 million doses from J&J, which is enough for 200 million people. That's on top of 300 million doses each from Pfizer Inc. and Moderna Inc., both of which have a two-shot vaccine. Altogether, it's enough for 500 million people. There are currently about 330 million Americans.

SPONSOR CONTENT

Community and belonging: Conduits to deeper learning

By Dr. Kara A. Loftin
Head of School at The Craig School

Community, in its purest form, is a feeling of fellowship with others that springs from shared attitudes, interests, and goals. We, at The Craig School, are such a community. As an independent school specifically designed for students with language-based learning disabilities in grades two through 12, we unite under our common purpose of providing an evidence-based, challenging academic program coupled with nurturing the social-emotional and moral health of our students, all in the environment most suited to their needs. Our goal is to foster students who are self-aware, self-confident and self-advocates; students who have developed the tools that allow for deeper learning with the ability to reach their highest potential.

Community is built in the trenches and on the front lines; it is built in our hallways and classrooms. The relationships teachers form with and among their students, with other teachers and staff members, and with their students' parents and guardians, forge this fellowship. The Craig School is a participant in strengthening our students' sense of community, their sense of belongingness, through actively cultivating respectful and inclusive relationships. These relationships begin in the classroom. Dr. Eric Caparulo, director of The Craig School - high school division, has a signature quote that reads, "No significant learning happens outside of a significant relationship" (James Comer, professor at the Yale Child Student Center). How true this statement rings. The keys to creating a positive climate and a community of belonging are relationships, and it is through these relationships that students blossom and are primed for optimal learning.

Rita Pierson, the late teacher most known for the TED Talk "Every Kid Deserves a Champion," once said, "How powerful would our



Currently celebrating its 40th anniversary, The Craig School is an independent school that specializes in working with students with learning disabilities in grades two to 12.



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world be if we had kids who were not afraid to take risks, who were not afraid to think and who had a champion? Every child deserves a champion: an adult who will never give up on them, who understands the power of connections, and insists that they become the best that they can

possibly be." This is the type of community valued at The Craig School and we believe it is the one that parents, guardians and families value as well. The Craig School actively partners with families so that each and every student experiences a strong sense of belonging, of community and what it is to have a champion. When we foster a positive school community, we remove another barrier to learning, allowing our students to truly shine.

Currently celebrating its 40th anniversary, The Craig School is an independent school that specializes in working with students with learning disabilities in grades two to 12.

Our program features proven, research-based learning strategies based on a comprehensive, whole-child approach and multisensory instructional strategies. Our tools allow students to build their academic foundations, increase their ability to be active and independent learners, and develop a sense of who they are as individuals and students. Visit us at craigschool.org.



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