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Iceland stops use of Moderna's Covid vaccine for all ages over heart inflammation concerns

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FILE PHOTO: Vials of coronavirus disease vaccines of Pfizer-BioNTech and Moderna are seen in the town of Ricany near Prague, Czech Republic, February 25, 2021 © Reuters / David W Cerny

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Iceland will no longer administer Moderna's mRNA Covid-19 vaccine, with the country's chief epidemiologist warning of a high risk of fatal complications seen in other Nordic countries.

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two months as a booster for those already inoculated with either two shots of the Pfizer or Moderna vaccines, or one shot of Johnson & Johnson's jab.

Some 75% of Icelanders are fully vaccinated, and health officials maintain that there is a sufficient supply of Pfizer's vaccine to continue the rollout without the Moderna shots. Pfizer's is already recommended for under-18s in Iceland.

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Finland halts Moderna vaccinations for young men over heart inflammation concerns

The decision to halt Moderna vaccinations was made after adverse effects to the shot were noted in several other Nordic nations, which have since restricted their own rollouts of the jab.

"A Nordic study involving Finland, Sweden, Norway and Denmark found that men under the age of 30 who received Moderna Spikevax had a slightly higher risk than others of developing myocarditis, according to the Finnish National Institute for Health and Welfare." — Mika Saikku, on Thursday.

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Norway recommended that men under the age of 30 choose Pfizer's jab instead.

The European Medicines Agency in July published findings urging the heart conditions myocarditis and pericarditis be added to the list of potential rare side effects of mRNA Covid-19 vaccines manufactured by Pfizer-BioNTech and Moderna after reviewing over 300 incidences across the European Economic Area. According to the EMA, these cases are extremely rare.

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