MEMORANDUM

TO: Janssen COVID-19 Vaccine EUA 27205
FROM: Peter Marks, MD, PhD, Director, Center for Biologics Evaluation and Research (CBER)
CC: CBER Office of Vaccines Research and Review (OVRR) and CBER Office of Compliance and Biologics Quality (OCBQ)
DATE: July 1, 2021
RE: Addendum #2 (for Area 2, batch GMP13) to the June 11, 2021 memorandum entitled “Assessment of Certain Janssen COVID-19 Vaccine Batches”

The purpose of this addendum is to document the Agency’s determination regarding the disposition of Janssen’s AD26.COV2.S DS Area 2 batch 21003663 (GMP13) and/or vaccine manufactured from this batch.

I. Disposition of Janssen’s AD26.COV2.S DS Batch GMP13

FDA has conducted a thorough review of available information concerning the manufacturing conditions of the EMOB facility during the time period in which Janssen’s AD26.COV2.S DS batch GMP13 was made and the testing of the batch produced.1 Based on the conditions present in the EMOB facility at the time batch GMP13 was manufactured, FDA has determined that the EMOB facility was not operating in full compliance with cGMP requirements at the time of manufacture. However, the quality of the product produced, as illustrated by a review of facility records and the results of the in process and release testing, support FDA’s determination that DS batch GMP13 and/or vaccine manufactured from this batch is suitable for use.

The Agency reviewed, among other things, information provided to FDA and collected during FDA’s inspections of the EMOB facility. This included information regarding manufacturing operations and waste flow procedures in place during the manufacture of Janssen DS batch GMP13. Additionally, the Agency reviewed the in process and release testing results for batch

GMP13. Based on its review of this information, the Agency concluded that the test results for batch GMP13 was within the defined quality specifications for this batch, which includes tests for bioburden and endotoxin. Also, GMP13 was manufactured in the EMOB facility during a time period when further measures had been implemented by Emergent to address its waste flow procedures and operations. These mitigation measures included adjustments to waste flow, changes in personnel movement, segregation of personnel functions, and reduced levels of waste.

Given all the above, FDA has determined that GMP13 is suitable for use, considering the current COVID-19 public health emergency, and that it meets the EUA standard and will be added to the Janssen COVID-19 Vaccine EUA 27205 for distribution in the United States and for potential export to other countries.  

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2 The Agency notes it is only authorizing batch GMP13 and/or vaccine manufactured from this batch and not a combination of other batches that include batches GMP 5 through 9 or any batches not authorized under the EUA.