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Subject: Continue to store expired J&J doses at appropriate temperatures pending stability studies



DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

June 9, 2021

Dear COVID-19 Vaccine Program Participants,

We have just today become aware of a directive from the White House that **providers should “quarantine” their doses of expiring Johnson & Johnson (J&J) vaccine**. This means that:

- Providers should store all vaccines until the date of expiration.
- When the expiration date of J&J doses is reached, providers should:
 - Identify, separate and mark expired doses as “do not use”.
 - Continue to store the expired vaccine at the appropriate temperature ranges pending results from a stability study which could extend the shelf life of the J&J COVID-19 vaccine.
- We understand that some expired doses may already have been removed from refrigeration—[please report those as wastage](#) – but do not remove additional expired doses from refrigeration moving forward.
- This stability study may provide a pathway forward for providers to use these doses for a longer period of time, transfer doses through other channels (within states or to other states), or have the option of giving J&J doses back to the federal government to export to other countries.
- Note that states and local governments cannot export COVID vaccine directly (only the federal government can do so).

REMINDERS—recycling this important and relevant information

Vaccine Lot Management and Expiration

In order to minimize the number of unused expired doses and manage expired doses correctly, we encourage providers to:

- Monitor expiration dates weekly, rotate stock as needed, and follow a “first in, first out” strategy to manage inventory.
- If nearing expiration, check posted manufacturer information for the most up to date expiration/extension information for vaccine lots.
- Based on the latest expiration information, REMOVE expired vaccine from the storage unit IMMEDIATELY. Do not give staff opportunity to administer expired vaccine.
 - If expired vaccine is inadvertently is administered, it is considered a vaccine administration error and requires remediation including a VAERS report, contacting

the recipient to inform them of the error, and may or may not require revaccination based on the manufacturers' guidance. Guidance on vaccine administration errors can be found in Appendix A of the [Interim Clinical Considerations for Use of COVID-19 Vaccines Currently Authorized in the United States](#).

- Vaccine disposal: dispose of the vaccine vial (with any remaining vaccine) and packaging as medical waste. Do NOT return vaccine in the thermal shipping container.
- Check your vaccine stock for lots expiring using the [CDC's Vaccine Lot Number and Expiration Date webpage](#).
 - Request access to a new COVID-19 Vaccine Lot Number report via CDC's Vaccine Code Set Management Service (VCSMS). This report includes COVID-19 vaccine lot numbers and expiration dates provided to CDC by the vaccine manufacturers. This report is updated daily and can be used to support vaccine administration, inventory management, and jurisdiction IISs. Complete the registration form on [CDC's Vaccine Lot Number and Expiration Date webpage](#) to request access to the report.

Report expired and wasted vaccine

Please promptly report any expired and/or vaccine to the CT WiZ [Helpdesk](#). Keep in mind that there are no negative consequences for reporting waste, and it will not negatively impact future allocations. CT DPH recognizes that unused expired vaccine is a normal part of this phase of the vaccination program.