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Subject: COVID-19 Vaccine Program Provider Updates



DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

April 4, 2023

This communication is being sent to all key contacts at provider organizations administering COVID-19 vaccine— please read this message in its entirety. Please feel free to share it with others in your organization who may benefit from the update. Note that all our communications are archived on our [web site](#).

Dear COVID-19 Vaccine Program (CoVP) Providers,

Below are some important operational updates about COVID-19 vaccine distribution as we approach the anticipated end of the Public Health Emergency (PHE) on May 11, 2023. The end of the PHE itself does not affect the supply or distribution of COVID-19 vaccines. After the PHE ends, the U.S. Government (USG) will continue to distribute all available vaccines in their inventory, free to US residents until that inventory is depleted or expires. This will continue even as the USG transitions vaccines to the commercial market, which is likely to take place by early fall.

For additional information on commercialization of COVID-19 medical countermeasure, see the USG's frequently asked questions [here](#).

Moderna Updates

All Moderna monovalent vaccine doses for people ages 12 and older (Moderna 10-dose vials) expired on April 1, 2023. Moderna monovalent vaccine for people ages 6 through 11 are set to expire by **early April** with no anticipated expiration extension. Providers should remove all expired vaccines from their storage unit immediately, report expired doses to the CT WiZ [Helpdesk](#), and dispose of the vaccine as medical waste.

CoVP providers with patients who started their primary series with Moderna adult (12+) or pediatric (6-11) monovalent vaccines should complete the series with an alternate vaccine from Pfizer-BioNTech (ages 6 and older) or Novavax (ages 12 and older). [Please read CDC guidance on interchanging COVID-19 vaccines here](#).

Pfizer-BioNTech Updates

The USG's supply of Pfizer-BioNTech adult (ages 12+) monovalent vaccine with an EUA label has been depleted. However, the BLA-labelled Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine (Comirnaty) continues to be available for ordering and can be used interchangeably with the EUA-labeled product. Visit the [Pfizer website](#) for the latest training schedule.

Novavax and J&J/Janssen Updates

The USG supply of J&J/Janssen vaccine is now depleted and all remaining J&J supply at provider sites is set to expire on **May 6th**. The USG has ample supply of Novavax, a non-mRNA vaccine, available for people ages 12 and older.

We anticipate incoming supply of the new five-dose vials of the Novavax vaccine and encourage all sites to replace their on-hand inventory, set to expire by the **end of April**, with the new supply when it becomes available. Visit the [Novavax website](#) to register for weekly office hours.

Ancillary Supply Kit Expiration Dates

Here's a quick checklist for ancillary supply kits:

- Check expiration dates before using any ancillary kit supplies or other medical equipment. This includes diluent, when needed.
- Do NOT discard the entire COVID-19 vaccine ancillary kit based on the date printed on the box's ancillary kit label. The expiration date printed on the box's ancillary kit label does NOT apply to supplies with an expiration date printed on each item's packaging.
- Note that expiration dates for masks and face shields are displayed on the ancillary supply kit label.
- Please keep in mind that expiration dates for other supplies (needles, syringes, alcohol prep pads, etc.) are printed on the individual packaging of each item.
- Promptly discard any expired items.

Additional Reminders

Redistribution of COVID-19 vaccines remains limited, please order full pack sizes if possible. There is no financial penalty or need to replace COVID-19 vaccine should they expire before use. If COVID-19 vaccine expires or is wasted, you must promptly report any doses expired and/or wasted vaccine to the CT WiZ [Helpdesk](#).

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.
 - **Pfizer:** <https://lotexpiry.cvdvaccine.com>
 - **Moderna:** <https://modernacovid19global.com/vial-lookup>
 - **Novavax:** <https://us.novavaxcovidvaccine.com/hcp>
 - **Johnson and Johnson/Janssen:** <https://vaxcheck.inj/>
- 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 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.

As always, thank you for your ongoing support and effort with the COVID-19 vaccine rollout.

For the CT DPH Immunization Program, visit: [Contact Us](#)

For the COVID-19 webpage, visit: [COVID-19 Vaccine Program](#)

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