



05/11/2021

Dear COVID-19 Vaccine Provider,

**As COVID-19 vaccine supply is more available, and opportunities to vaccinate Illinois residents may come sporadically, focus is shifting towards ensuring vaccination of all eligible residents even at the risk of leaving some unused doses that may be wasted. The Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) is aware that some patients may want to be vaccinated at their primary care provider, rather than attending mass immunization events, and we would like to support and encourage this by providing updated guidance on wastage.**

IDPH recommends that you make every effort to vaccinate eligible persons who present at your vaccine clinic location. If you need to puncture a multi-dose vial to administer to one or more patients who present to your practice, please do. Ultimately, you may need to waste some or all the remaining doses in that vial; but at this point in our pandemic response, it is more critical that you do not miss an opportunity to vaccinate people who want to be vaccinated.

We recommend following best practices when managing your inventory to maximize vaccination of Illinoisans and minimize dose wastage. IDPH is expecting increases in vaccine wastage as the vaccination effort in Illinois evolves. You will **not** be penalized for reporting an increased number of unused doses in vials. IDPH staff remain committed to helping you manage inventory and creating additional strategies to minimize vaccine wastage.

### **Managing Multidose Vials (MDV)**

- If feasible, prepare a Standby List strategy appropriate to your setting and the function of your site.
- Review your patient lists for those who may not have been vaccinated, and/or ask those who present for care if they are willing to be on waitlists.
- Review daily the clinic/appointment schedule to determine if it matches available vaccine inventory.
- As a clinic or appointment day progresses, monitor no-shows and extra doses to anticipate potential need/ability to reach additional people.
- Determine time of day that is appropriate for your site to activate the Standby List strategy.
- Use the Standby List to call people who may be able to arrive at the administration site before the end of your vaccination clinic.
- If individuals with future appointments are rescheduled for the end of the day, republish those future appointments as available by the end of the day.

- For vaccines administered to standby patients, sites should use relevant registration and reporting mechanisms as well as ensure that second dose appointments are scheduled for the appropriate timeframe at the same location.

If your practices uses other strategies that work for you, of course, continue using those. Please continue to ensure proper cold storage and handling to minimize unnecessary wastage.

Thank you for your dedication to ensuring Illinoisans are able to receive the COVID-19 vaccine.