



## MASSACHUSETTS COVID-19 VACCINE PROGRAM

### Updated Guidance on Use and Allowable Wastage of COVID-19 Vaccine June 17, 2021

Health care providers authorized to order, store, and administer the COVID-19 vaccine in Massachusetts, per the Massachusetts COVID-19 Vaccine Program agreement, **should try to administer all received COVID-19 vaccine within 30 days of receipt**. However, the priority is to administer as many doses of vaccines as possible and there are no consequences for failure to administer doses within this timeframe. Providers should track and rotate vaccine in stock by expiration date (administering oldest doses first) and should request assistance from DPH to transfer significant numbers of doses that are likely to expire before they can be administered.

Given the increase in vaccine availability and lower consumer demand, the Department is asking providers to maximize doses administered, understanding that this will increase waste. In the Commonwealth's effort to effectively administer vaccines to as many individuals as possible, and to utilize as many doses as possible that are due to expire, the following guidance is provided:

For vials due to expire in 16-31 days **25% per vial wastage** is permitted (for Pfizer 6-dose vials this means up to 2 doses; for Moderna 10-dose vials up to 3 doses; for Moderna 14-dose vials up to 4 doses; for Janssen/J&J 5-dose vials up to 2 doses)

For vials due to expire in 8-15 days **50% per vial wastage** is permitted (for Pfizer 6-dose vials this means up to 3 doses; for Moderna 10-dose vials up to 5 doses; for Moderna 14-dose vials up to 7 doses; for Janssen/J&J 5-dose vials up to 3 doses)

For vials due to expire in 7 days or fewer, there is no limit on the number of doses in the vial that can be wasted if even a single dose can be administered before expiration.

Health care providers should use their best judgment when making decisions about puncturing a new vial and use the above standards as guiding principles. This guidance is intended to enable providers to meet the needs of individuals who remain unvaccinated when doses would otherwise be wasted.

Please continue to contact the DPH Vaccine Unit at [DPH-Vaccine-Management@massmail.state.ma.us](mailto:DPH-Vaccine-Management@massmail.state.ma.us) for assistance managing your inventory or to arrange for transfers of excess doses of COVID-19 vaccine.