

Kansas Immunization Program

COVID-19 Vaccine Wastage Process for Providers

The management of the COVID-19 vaccine is one of the most important responsibilities for enrolled providers during the pandemic response and providers should make every effort to prevent vaccine wastage. [COVID-19 vaccine product information](#) continues to be revised. **Providers should frequently review product information for updated guidance.**

Wasted Vaccine

Vaccine wastage includes:

- Punctured multi dose vials or pre-drawn syringes that have not been administered or cannot be used within the manufacturer's specified time.
- Spoiled, damaged, or contaminated vials or pre-drawn doses (i.e. dropped, defective, damaged, or where the sterility of the vaccine has been compromised).
- Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine if a sixth dose cannot be extracted from a vial.
- Lost or unaccounted for doses.
- Vaccine that has exceeded the expiration date, [Beyond Use Date](#) (BUD), or hours indicated in various states (i.e. frozen, refrigerated, or room temperature).
- Vaccines that have been exposed to out of range temperatures.

Removing from use

Non-viable or expired vaccine or diluent should be removed from vaccine storage units and labeled as "Do Not Use" to prevent inadvertent administration of non-viable vaccine. Providers should review vaccine product guidance including manufacturer expiration date and temperature stability data prior to disposing of vaccine as guidance continues to be updated.

Disposing of wasted doses

Non-viable COVID-19 vaccines cannot be returned to the manufacturer or McKesson. Providers should dispose of non-viable doses in accordance with local regulations and facility medical waste protocols. At minimum, COVID-19 vaccine vials should be placed in a sharps container and disposed of as medical waste. This helps to ensure vials are destroyed and decreases potential COVID-19 vaccine fraudulent activities.

Reporting wasted doses

All wasted COVID-19 vaccine doses, regardless of reason, must be reported to KSWebIZ within 72 hours.

Strategies for preventing vaccine waste

Strategies to prevent wastage could include but are not limited to:

- Record and monitor vaccine expiration date or BUD.
 - Pfizer expiration date is printed on the label
 - [Moderna expiration date lookup](#)
 - [Janssen expiration date lookup](#)
- Have a plan in place prior to removing from vaccine storage units or puncturing vials. Once vaccine has been removed from recommended storage (i.e. from frozen state to refrigerated or from refrigerated state to room temperature) or once punctured, vaccine must be used within the manufacturer's recommended timeframe.
- Monitor and record twice daily temperatures. Take action as needed to prevent an excursion.

- Have an emergency plan in place. Determine where vaccine will be moved in case of an emergency such as a power outage or vaccine storage unit failure.
- Providers should promptly notify KDHE of needed redistribution if vaccine cannot be used prior to the BUD or expiration date by emailing kdhe.vaccine@ks.gov with the vaccine product, doses remaining, and expiration date, or BUD date. Please provide as much advanced notice as possible.

Temperature Excursion Process

If vaccine has been exposed to out of range temperatures or has been out of the recommended storage for longer than manufacturer recommendations, prior to disposing of the vaccine, follow the temperature excursion process and contact your Regional Immunization Consultant.

Additional storage and handling information can be found in the Center's for Disease Control and Prevention ([CDC Vaccine Storage and Handling Toolkit](#)).