



COLORADO

Department of Health Care
Policy & Financing

Dear Provider,

The Colorado Joint Vaccine Task Force is joining the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) in new guidance advising that providers are encouraged to vaccinate every eligible person who requests a COVID-19 vaccination.

“As we move out of the sprint of vaccinating those at greatest risk and into the marathon of vaccinating those who have been waiting for it to be convenient or who might have some hesitancy, we need to prioritize access,” said Scott Bookman, Incident Commander of Colorado’s COVID-19 response. “In order to ensure every Coloradan who wants a vaccine can get one, we want smaller providers- including clinics, primary care physicians, and urgent cares- to be able to vaccinate their patients. Providers can open a vial even if they don’t use every dose.”

Colorado has administered more than 5 million doses of lifesaving COVID-19 vaccine. Approximately 2.4 million Coloradans are fully vaccinated, and more than one hundred million people are fully vaccinated in the United States. The more Coloradans who are vaccinated, the fewer COVID-19 cases, hospitalizations, outbreaks and deaths that will occur.

Providers are encouraged to vaccinate every eligible person who requests a vaccine, even if it means puncturing a multidose vial without having enough people available to receive each dose. While the focus is on taking every opportunity to vaccinate, here are some ways providers can help minimize wastage:

- Consider establishing and promoting standing vaccination days or half-days to increase the likelihood of larger numbers of people requesting vaccination on the same day.
- Vaccinate family members or friends of those who accompany patients to medical visits even if they are not established patients at the vaccinating practice.
- Continue outreach to employers or other community partners that have a large membership or network to arrange vaccination events.
- Attempt to contact additional persons (i.e., from a waitlist or through personal contacts of persons being vaccinated) to use as many vaccine doses as possible.
- Consider partnering with your local public health agency or other clinic that might be able to quickly use any extra doses from a punctured vial.

Once punctured, multidose vials must be used within 12 hours for Moderna, six hours for Pfizer and two hours for Johnson & Johnson/Janssen.

It is common for providers to not use an entire vial with other multi-dose vaccines. For example, in 2020, 11 percent of publicly funded influenza vaccines were unused. Colorado, in collaboration with providers and partners, will continue to do everything possible to minimize the amount of vaccine that goes unused.

Visit covid19.colorado.gov to stay up to date.

Thank you,

Department of Health Care Policy & Financing

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