Reporting Doses Spoiled, Expired, or Wasted

California COVID-19 Vaccination Program

Remove spoiled, expired, or wasted vaccines from the storage unit immediately. Do not return nonviable vaccines to the manufacturer or McKesson. Follow these instructions to report doses spoiled, expired, or wasted to CDPH electronically and dispose of vaccines.

Program Requirements

- Enrolled providers must document and track vaccine wastage as part of routine vaccine inventory management activities and report the number of doses of COVID-19 vaccine and adjuvants that were unused, spoiled, expired, or wasted as required by the relevant jurisdiction.

Spoiled Vaccines

Careful storage and handling should minimize spoiled vaccines. Vaccines still in their original container (vial or syringe) are considered spoiled and nonviable if the vaccine manufacturer has determined that vaccines were exposed to out-of-range temperatures. Vaccines could spoil as a result of the following conditions:

- natural disaster or power outage
- refrigerator or freezer temperatures that are too warm or too cold
- failure to store vaccines properly upon receipt
- vaccines spoiled during transfer
- mechanical failure
- unmonitored temperatures

Expired Vaccines

Vaccines are considered expired if their expiration dates are past the manufacturer expiration date on the vial or the expiration date after reconstitution, depending on the vaccine and according to manufacturer instructions. Beyond use dates may also be shortened if storing frozen or ultra-cold vaccines in a vaccine refrigerator, for example.

Wasted Vaccines

Careful vaccine management and administration should minimize wasted vaccines. See **Repositioning Vaccines: Guidance for Satellite, Temporary, and Off-Site Clinics** for tips to reduce waste in mass vaccination clinics.

Vaccines may be designated wasted as a result of the following conditions:

- vaccines drawn into the syringe but not administered
- vaccines in open vials but doses not administered
- damaged vials (e.g., due to a drop causing damage to vial integrity or sterility)
- lost or unaccounted for vaccines
- unable to draw a dose in vial (see below)

Unable to Draw a Dose in Vial

For inventory purposes, CDC defined the maximum doses reported to VaccineFinder for unpunctured vials:

	Pfizer	Moderna 80777-0273-99	Moderna 80777-0273-98	Janssen
Max Doses Reported (unpunctured vial)	6	10	14	5

Report fewer doses (than Max Doses Reported) in myCAvax as "Wasted" with Waste Reason of "unable to draw a dose in vial." (For additional examples, see CDC's Wastage Reporting Table at the end of this document to determine if a dose should be reported as waste.)

myCAvax *Vaccine Inventory* - **Waste**

Tip: Any time you draw a full dose but don't administer it, report doses as wasted in myCAvax with a Waste Reason of "Vaccines drawn into syringes but not administered."

Reporting Requirements

Login to myCAvax and click **Vaccine Inventory** to report as waste all non-viable vaccines.

For Pfizer vaccine: If you are unable to draw a 6th dose from a vial, report the 6th dose as waste with Waste Reason of "Other."

Disposal of Nonviable COVID-19 Vaccines

Do not return vaccines. Providers are responsible for disposing of vaccine waste in accordance with local regulations and practice protocols for disposing of **regulated medical waste**. This helps to ensure vials and cartons are destroyed and minimizes the chance that counterfeit products may be sold online or abroad.

Pfizer, Moderna, and Janssen: These COVID vaccines do not contain hazardous components and may be disposed of in a pharmaceutical waste container, or a comingled pharmaceutical/Sharps waste container.

(If you are experiencing a shortage of FDA-cleared sharps disposal containers, see **Strategies for Sharps Disposal Container Use During Supply Shortages** for guidance.)

Wastage Reporting Table (CDC)

Manufacturer	Dose	Was the dose extracted in full?	Is it counted as waste?
Pfizer	6th dose	Yes	No
		No	Yes
Moderna 11 dose vial	10th dose	Yes	No
		No	Yes
	11th dose	Yes	No
		No	No
Moderna 15 dose vial	13th dose	Yes	No
		No	Yes
	14th dose	Yes	No
		No	Yes
	15th dose	Yes	No
		No	No
J&J/Janssen	5th dose	Yes	No
		No	Yes

Medical Waste Management Reminders

- All providers should be registered as waste generators as part of their daily operations either through their Local Enforcement Agency or CDPH, depending on which county they are located in. (See Medical Waste Generators.)
- If holding a temporary off-site clinic, providers must report this to the medical waste enforcement agency (see list of enforcement agencies). Health and Safety Code sections 117890 and 117895 provide that large and small quantity generators who are registered under these sections are allowed to generate medical waste at temporary events, including, but not limited to, health fairs, vaccination clinics, and veteran stand downs, without further registration or permitting required, but the generators are required to notify the local enforcement agency of their intended participation in a temporary event at least 72 hours before the event, unless the sponsor of the temporary event previously notified the local enforcement agency of the event.
- Providers under state jurisdiction can contact CDPH for MWMP.
- Providers under the jurisdiction of a Local Enforcement Agency contact Local Enforcement Agency.