Mike DeWine, Governor
Jon Husted, Lt.Governor   **Stephanie McCloud**, Director

July 21, 2021

Enrolled COVID-19 Vaccination Provider Partners:

The Ohio Department of Health (ODH) is sending you this critical reminder about expectations for documenting and reporting temperature excursions and unused vaccine through VOMS. We are also resending the latest guidance on Maximizing Vaccination While Minimizing Wasted Doses for your reference.

COVID-19 vaccine providers must follow CDC jurisdiction requirements and standards for reporting inventory, waste, and spoiled vaccine through the state's Immunization Registry's Vaccine Ordering Management System (VOMS) through Impact SIIS. Following are some guidelines and resources to help you stay on track with this process.

Important Reminders on Recording and Reporting Vaccine in Ohio

- If you need a refresher on **COVID-19 Vaccine Reporting and Ordering**, ODH is holding a webinar every Tuesday from 2-3 p.m., where providers can also ask questions and receive answers in real-time. This webinar is available every week on TEAMs. An invitation is sent to providers every Monday.

  o **Click here to join the meeting on your computer or mobile app.**

- **Report temperature excursions as it relates to COVID-19 vaccine.** Step-by-step instructions for how temperature excursions should be documented and reported can be found in Standards for Temperature Excursions – *An overview of the steps for recording and handling out-of-range temperatures in storage units containing COVID-19 vaccine*.

- **Document and report spoiled, expired, wasted vaccine according to jurisdiction guidance for COVID-19 vaccine to VOMS regularly**. Step-by-step instructions and details for documenting and reporting spoiled expired and wasted vaccine can be found on page 3 of the Ohio Department of Health's Inventory Adjustment Guidance.

- Manufacturers may have specific guidance on how to handle expired or compromised vaccines. However, **open or broken vials and vaccine pre-drawn by providers cannot be returned and should be discarded**.

- **Providers should dispose of vaccine waste in accordance with local regulations and processes used to dispose of regulated infectious waste**. For more information about disposing of infectious waste, visit the Ohio EPA website.

- **Please refrain from sending wasted, expired, or expired doses back to ODH or the CDC in the shipping container or any other method**.

- All providers should use labels or an alternative method for marking the thaw time and use-by time on vaccine vials after thawing or mixing with diluent. You can download labels from the CDC at the links below.
    - https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/covid-19/info-by-product/pfizer/downloads/bud-tracking-labels.pdf
    - https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/covid-19/info-by-product/moderna/downloads/bud-tracking-labels.pdf

- Ensure staff members are aware of the exact thaw and use by times for vaccine after thawing, mixing with diluent, removing from refrigeration, or puncturing a vial of COVID-19 vaccine. Be sure to use labels to avoid vaccine wastage or administration of vaccine after beyond use time.

- **Providers that physically move vaccine from a REDCap transfer request or as part of a redistribution agreement must ensure that the virtual vaccine inventory in VOMS is also moved to the enrolled provider receiving the vaccine.** The original provider is responsible for documenting the movement, and the new owner of the vaccine is responsible for reporting inventory and wastage in VOMS. This process is also explained on page 3 of the Ohio Department of Health's Inventory Adjustment Guidance.

The information in this email is included in the attached PDF file if the links in this email do not work for you.

If you have any questions or issues, please call the ODH Provider Call Center between 8:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m. Monday through Friday, at 1-844-9ODHVAX (1-844-963-4829) or email COVIDVACCINE@odh.ohio.gov.

Sincerely,

Ohio Department of Health COVID-19 Vaccination Provider Relations Team

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