



Health Alert Network Message 21-13: COVID-19 Vaccine Delivery Update, Second Dose Intervals, & Sixth Doses in Pfizer COVID-19 Vaccine Vials

Origination Date:
February 17, 2021

Revision Dates (List All Revision Dates):

COVID-19 Vaccine Delivery Update, Guidance for the Second Dose Interval and Pfizer Vaccine Vials Sixth Dose

Vaccine Deliveries

Health and Human Services (HHS) has confirmed there will be no COVID-19 vaccine deliveries on Wednesday, 2/17/21 due to severe weather interruption of services. McKesson is not packing any first/prime doses of Moderna today, so no chance of Moderna vaccine delivery on Thursday, 2/18/21. It is possible vaccine deliveries could be made on Friday, 2/19/21. Saturday, 2/20/21 deliveries are being considered. To avoid vaccine loss, a signature will be required for receipt of each delivery.

Second Dose Interval

The second dose of COVID-19 vaccine should be administered as close to the recommended interval as possible. However, when it is not feasible to adhere to the recommended interval, the second dose of Pfizer-BioNTech and Moderna COVID-19 vaccines may be administered up to 6 weeks (42 days) after the first dose. There are currently limited data on efficacy of mRNA COVID-19 vaccines administered beyond this window. If the second dose is administered beyond these intervals, there is no need to restart the series.

<https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/covid-19/info-by-product/clinical-considerations.html>

Sixth Dose of Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine Now Expected in Every Vial

COVID-19 vaccine providers are now expected to get six doses per vial (no longer five doses with the possibility of an extra "angel" dose) of the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine. The U.S. government has also updated the ancillary kits to support providers getting six doses of vaccine per vial. Federal data systems and the Louisiana ordering process will reflect this change. You will notice the amount of doses have increased, but the number of vials will not change. This change will also occur for upcoming second dose shipments, so if a site, for example, received 120 doses previously for first doses of Pfizer (24 vials), they will technically receive 144 doses for second doses (still 24 vials).

National Drug Code (NDC) Update

Characteristics associated with the existing Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine were updated in data systems on February, 2/19. **The NDC for Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine will not change**, nor will a new NDC be introduced as part of the dose count change. The current NDC will include an increase in the number of available doses from five to six per vial.

Allocations/Ordering Caps

Your systems and planning should now accommodate multiples of six. The projected allocations data has been updated for this week's ordering. This means that your organization's projected allocations for the week ending February 20, will now appear to have increased by 20%. Orders will include the same number of vials, yet providers are expected to get a sixth dose of vaccine per vial.

Capturing and Reporting Administration Data

Administrative data are collected by dose, and systems should not need to be updated to account for this change in dosage. However, below are some important updates for capturing and reporting administration data for jurisdictions and healthcare providers:

- [Clinical processes](#) should account for a sixth dose in each vial.
- We understand that providers may not be able to obtain six doses from every vial. If a provider is unable to access the sixth dose, the sixth dose should be documented in LINKS as wasted with the reason "lost and unaccounted."

Facilities, partners, and the state may see an increase in reported wastage . We know there is always waste with vaccine administration and that, during sensitive times, this increase in wastage could cause concern for leaders.

The Louisiana Office of Public Health appreciates the amazing amount of work COVID-19 vaccine providers have completed to protect persons in our state. The percentage of first dose vaccinations administered from state's supply is being used to depict how states are initiating vaccination within their communities. Louisiana is ranked at the highest level percentage of delivered first vaccine doses.

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/distributing/first-doses.html>