DATE: October 25, 2021

TO: COVID-19 Vaccination Providers

FROM: Frank Welch, M.D.
Immunization Program Medical Director

SUBJECT: Moderna COVID-19 Vaccine Vial Puncture Limit

The Louisiana Immunization Program is emphasizing guidance provided in the Moderna COVID-19 Fact Sheet for Healthcare Providers (https://www.fda.gov/media/144637/download). In the “Dose Preparation” section, on page 4, it states the following:

- When extracting only booster doses or a combination of primary series and booster doses, the maximum number of doses that may be extracted from either vial presentation should not exceed 20 doses. Do not puncture the vial stopper more than 20 times.

It is recommended that providers discard the vial and its contents after a maximum of 20 punctures. With the Moderna COVID-19 booster dose being a half dose (0.25 mL), some providers had initially understood that up to 28 patients could be vaccinated with a half dose from the 14 full dose vial. Per the guidance listed in the U.S Food and Drug Administration’s Emergency Use Authorization, a vial can only cover up to a maximum of 20 patients.

If you have any questions regarding the information in this memorandum, please contact the Immunization Program at la.immunization@la.gov