



**State of Louisiana**  
Louisiana Department of Health  
Office of Public Health

**Avoiding COVID-19 Vaccine Loss**  
**December 31, 2020**

The Louisiana Office of Public Health (OPH) has developed a process for avoiding the waste of COVID-19 vaccine doses allocated by the State of Louisiana.

OPH has implemented a robust inventory management process to reduce the risk of expiring COVID-19 vaccine product. OPH or their immunization partners will contact each vaccination site prior to vaccination activity to gauge how many vaccines are needed to avoid excessive amounts of doses being allocated. In the rare circumstances when vaccine is expiring, please follow the guidance below:

**COVID-19 Vaccine Product set to expire *within 48 hours*. Follow this sequence:**

- Identify any Phase 1a eligible persons to offer and administer the vaccine;
- Contact your facilities' Vaccine Lead to determine if any unopened packages that are set to expire can be used to vaccinate eligible Phase 1a persons at another location or an off-site clinic within 24 hours.

**COVID-19 Vaccine Product set to expire *within 6 hours*. Follow this sequence:**

- Identify and administer vaccine to persons that are eligible in Phase 1a;
- Administer vaccine to outpatient health personnel and health-related support personnel in the community;
- Administer vaccine to persons aged 70 years and older;
- Administer vaccine to other persons not identified above.

Persons that receive a first dose of the vaccine qualify for the second dose at the same location.