



Jan. 5, 2021

Dear COVID-19 Vaccine Providers,

Here is an important message about administering Pfizer and Moderna vaccines.

**Use every dose in every vial**

In order to avoid wasting any available doses of the mRNA vaccines authorized for COVID-19, everyone administering vaccine in Alaska is instructed to use every full dose from every vial. For the vaccine manufactured by Pfizer, six or seven doses may be obtainable from a vial labeled as containing five doses. For the vaccine manufactured by Moderna, eleven doses may be obtainable from a vial labeled as containing ten doses.

**The Pfizer FDA fact sheet has been amended to clarify that each vial may contain six doses** and is available here: <https://www.fda.gov/media/144413/download>. The FDA has also amended and reissued the EUA to clarify that vials may contain more than five doses: <https://www.fda.gov/media/144412/download>.

**The Moderna FDA fact sheets do not specify the number of doses in each vial.** Vaccine providers should be aware up to 11 doses may be contained in a vial and should be ready to use each dose.

**Do not discard an un-expired vial with one or more full doses remaining. Administer all available doses.** In order to ensure no usable dose of these scarce vaccines is wasted, all vaccination sites should ensure they have six people awaiting vaccine for each vial of the Pfizer vaccine they plan to administer. If a seventh dose is obtained from a vial of the Pfizer vaccine, or if an eleventh is found in a Moderna vaccine vial, it should go to a person currently eligible for vaccine based on the current allocation strategy, or if none are available, a person in the next tier of eligibility. Vaccine sites should also maintain a "call list" of people who are currently eligible or in the next tier of eligibility who wish to come receive the vaccine at the earliest opportunity in case of an extra dose available. Anyone on the call list should understand that as the Pfizer vaccine expires six hours after dilution, and the Moderna vaccine expires six hours after the vial is punctured, they will have very limited time to arrive at the vaccine site after a call.

**Technical notes:**

Do not use extra diluent for the Pfizer vaccine. Use 1.8 mL sterile sodium chloride for each vial.

Changing needles between drawing vaccine from a vial and injecting it into a recipient is not necessary unless the needle has been damaged or contaminated.

Using a low dead-volume syringe and/or needle results in more doses from each vial; plan to use the same needle and syringe type for the second dose as the first.

Do not combine doses from different vials as these vaccines contain no preservatives.

For other questions, please see <https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/covid-19/info-by-product/pfizer/pfizer-bioNTech-fags.html> and <https://www.fda.gov/emergency-preparedness-and-response/mcm-legal-regulatory-and-policy-framework/pfizer-biontech-covid-19-vaccine-frequently-asked-questions>.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'AZink', with a horizontal line extending to the right.

Dr. Anne B. Zink

Chief Medical Officer

Dept. Health & Social Services