Dear Mississippi Colleagues,

- The Mississippi State Department of Health (MSDH) is excited to provide COVID-19 Vaccine providers in Mississippi with the **opportunity to order smaller minimum orders of Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine** directly from MSDH for rapid administration in settings where large orders are not appropriate.
- Enrolled providers will now be able to order Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine directly from MSDH in increments of 1 vial (6 doses) to up to 20 vials (120 doses).
- **Pfizer vaccine distributed through this program requires refrigerator storage between 2°C and 8°C (36°F and 46°F) and will remain viable for up to one month at these temperatures.**
- The FDA has issued an **UPDATED EUA indicating Pfizer vaccine stored at refrigerator temperatures between 2°C and 8°C (36°F and 46°F) will now remain viable for up to one month** (see Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine EUA Fact Sheet for Healthcare Providers Administering Vaccine (Vaccination Providers) (fda.gov)
- To order smaller dose increments of Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine, complete the Pfizer-COVID 19 Vaccine Request survey at [https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/9WMG6D7](https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/9WMG6D7).
  - Orders placed by 2pm each Thursday will be available for direct pick up from one of 10 County Health Departments throughout the state on the following Monday or Tuesday.
  - An MSDH representative will contact you after your order to directly arrange pick up of the vaccine for your facility.
  - County Health Department sites for pick up are (will be expanded to include additional sites in the future): Lowndes, Neshoba, Oktibbeha, Rankin, DeSoto, Lee, Panola, Forrest, Jackson, and Jones.
  - 2nd doses orders for this program will also need to be placed through the Pfizer-COVID-19 Vaccine Request Survey. Second doses **WILL NOT** be automatically sent.
• **Additional Update:** Providers ordering minimum orders of the available COVID-19 vaccines Moderna (100 doses), Janssen (100 doses) and Pfizer (1,170 doses), will now be able to directly place these orders in MIIX.
  o Vaccine Ordering and Transfer Menu Options in MIIX
    [https://documentation.stchome.com/assets/prodfiles/IWeb/Reach/VOMS%20%20V%20%201%20%20of%203%20Navigating%20Vaccine%20Ordering%20and%20Transfer%20Menu%20Options.mov](https://documentation.stchome.com/assets/prodfiles/IWeb/Reach/VOMS%20%20V%20%201%20%20of%203%20Navigating%20Vaccine%20Ordering%20and%20Transfer%20Menu%20Options.mov)
  o Other MIIX ordering and inventory management resources can be found at [11716.pdf (ms.gov)](http://www.HealthyMS.com)
  o 2nd doses orders will have to be placed in MIIX. They **WILL NOT** be sent automatically.

**Updated Information from CDC for COVID-19 Vaccine Wastage**

To ensure providers do not miss an opportunity to vaccinate every eligible person, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends:

- Providers follow [clinical best practice for vaccination as well as best practices when managing inventory](http://www.HealthyMS.com) to maximize vaccination and minimize dose wastage.
- **Providers should not miss any opportunities to vaccinate every eligible person who presents at a vaccination site, even if it means puncturing a multidose vial to administer vaccine without having enough people available to receive each dose.**
  - Consider establishing and promoting standing vaccination days or half-days to increase likelihood of larger numbers of people presenting for vaccination on the same day.
  - Vaccinate family members or friends who accompany patients to medical visits even if they are not established patients at the vaccinating practice.
  - Continue outreach to employers or other community partners that have a large membership or network to arrange vaccination events.
  - As contingency plan, vaccine providers should attempt to contact additional persons (i.e., from a waitlist or through personal contacts of persons being vaccinated) to use as many vaccine doses as possible.
  - Once punctured, multidose vials must be used within:
    - 12 hours (Moderna)
    - 6 hours (Pfizer)
    - 2 hours at room temperature, 6 hours at 2-8 degrees Celsius (J&J/Janssen)
  - The more Americans who get vaccinated the fewer COVID-19 cases, hospitalizations, outbreaks, and deaths that will occur.

Regards,
Paul Byers, MD
State Epidemiologist
Alerting Message Specification Settings

Originating Agency: Mississippi State Department of Health
Alerting Program: MS Health Alert Network (MS HAN)
Message Identifier: MSHAN-20210519-00518-ALT
Program (HAN) Type: Health Alert
Status (Type): Actual ()
Message Type: Alert
Reference: MSHAN-00518
Severity: Unknown
Acknowledgement: No
Sensitive: Not Sensitive
Message Expiration: Undetermined
Urgency: Undetermined
Delivery Time: 600 minutes

Definition of Alerting Vocabulary and Message Specification Settings

Originating Agency: A unique identifier for the agency originating the alert.
Alerting Program: The program sending the alert or engaging in alerts and communications using PHIN Communication and Alerting (PCA) as a vehicle for their delivery.
Message Identifier: A unique alert identifier that is generated upon alert activation (MSHAN-yyymmd-hhmm-TTT (ALT=Health Alert, ADV=Health Advisory, UPD=Health Update, MSG/INFO=Message/Info Service)).
Program (HAN) Type: Categories of Health Alert Messages.
Health Alert: Conveys the highest level of importance; warrants immediate action or attention.
Health Advisory: Provides important information for a specific incident or situation; may not require immediate action.
Health Update: Provides updated information regarding an incident or situation; unlikely to require immediate action.
Health Info Service: Provides Message / Notification of general public health information; unlikely to require immediate action.
Status (Type):
  Actual: Communication or alert refers to a live event
  Exercise: Designated recipients must respond to the communication or alert
  Test: Communication or alert is related to a technical, system test and should be disregarded
Message Type:  
Alert: Indicates an original Alert  
Update: Indicates prior alert has been Updated and/or superseded  
Cancel: Indicates prior alert has been cancelled  
Error: Indicates prior alert has been retracted

Reference: For a communication or alert with a Message Type of “Update” or “Cancel”, this attribute contains the unique Message Identifier of the original communication or alert being updated or cancelled. “n/a” = Not Applicable.

Severity:  
Extreme: Extraordinary threat to life or property  
Severe: Significant threat to life or property  
Moderate: Possible threat to life or property  
Minor: Minimal threat to life or property  
Unknown: Unknown threat to life or property

Acknowledgement: Indicates whether an acknowledgement on the part of the recipient is required to confirm that the alert was received, and the timeframe in which a response is required (Yes or No).

Sensitive:  
Sensitive: Indicates the alert contains sensitive content  
Not Sensitive: Indicates non-sensitive content

Message Expiration: Undetermined.

Urgency: Undetermined. Responsive action should be taken immediately.

Delivery Time: Indicates the timeframe for delivery of the alert (15, 60, 1440, 4320 minutes (.25, 1, 24, 72 hours)).