



MISSISSIPPI STATE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

**This is an official  
MS Health Alert Network (HAN) Alert**

**MESSAGE ID:** MSHAN-20210519-00518-ALT (Health Alert)

**RECIPIENTS:** All Physicians, Hospitals, ERs, ICPs, NPs, and  
Healthcare Providers – Statewide

**Wednesday, May 19, 2021**

**SUBJECT:** Updated Process for Reduced Minimum Orders of  
Pfizer COVID-19 Vaccine  
(And Updated Guidance from FDA for Prolonged  
Refrigerated Storage of  
Pfizer COVID-19 Vaccine)

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 \(Vaccination Providers\)](https://www.fda.gov/oc/20210519-pfizer-covid-19-vaccine-eua) ([fda.gov](https://www.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>.
  - 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.
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> 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.

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- **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.
  - Vaccine Ordering and Transfer Menu Options in MIIX  
<https://documentation.stchome.com/assets/prodfiles/IWeb/Reach/VOMS%20%20V%201%20of%203%20Navigating%20Vaccine%20Ordering%20and%20Transfer%20Menu%20Options.mov>
  - **Other MIIX ordering and inventory management resources can be found at [11716.pdf \(ms.gov\)](#)**
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> 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](#) 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-yyymmdd-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



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**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)).