



State of Louisiana
Louisiana Department of Health
Office of Public Health

November 5, 2024

TO: Vaccines for Children Providers

FROM: Louisiana Immunization Program

RE: Multi-Dose Vial 28 Day Exemption

The Joint Commission requires a 28-day expiration date for discarding multi-dose vials from the date of opening or puncture, unless specified otherwise by the manufacturer. This expiration guideline does not apply to vaccines in the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and state immunization programs (Standard MM.03.01.07, EP7).

The Joint Commission has published a FAQ sheet on its website that further clarifies its requirements for the use and expiration of multi-dose vials.

The new FAQ sheet exempts all vaccines from the 28-day rule and states: “The CDC Immunization Program states that vaccines are to be discarded per the manufacturer’s expiration date. The Joint Commission is applying this approach to all vaccines (whether a part of the CDC or state immunization programs or purchased by healthcare facilities) with the understanding that the vaccines are stored and handled appropriately (correct temperature is maintained, frequency of temperature checks, etc.). Following the guidelines provided in the package insert is very important to ensure integrity of the vaccine.”

The complete Multi-dose Vial FAQs can be viewed on The Joint Commission’s website and accessed [here](#).

The Joint Commission also cited the CDC as providing excellent resources regarding the use, storage, and handling of vaccines. Those resources can be viewed on the CDC’s website and accessed [here](#).

Your help in distributing and sharing this information with others is appreciated.

Regards,

Handwritten signature of Dionka C. Pierce in blue ink.

Dionka C. Pierce, MPH
Director, Immunization Program

Handwritten signature of Adrienne M. Whitney in blue ink.

Adrienne M. Whitney, MPH
Vaccine Distribution Manager