



## **URGENT COMMUNICATION**

June 7, 2021

To All Enrolled COVID-19 Vaccine Providers,

COVID-19 vaccine providers across Ohio face the challenge of managing an estimated surplus of **approximately 200,000 doses** of the single-dose Johnson & Johnson vaccine set to expire on **June 23**. Governor Mike DeWine and the Ohio Department of Health continue to press all COVID-19 vaccine providers to act urgently and employ all possible tactics now to use as many of these doses as possible.

This vaccine was distributed by Ohio and also shipped directly to retail pharmacies and federally qualified health centers by the federal government. At this time, Ohio does not have legal options for sending the vaccine elsewhere, either to other states or other countries.

The time to act is now in order to [maximize vaccination opportunities and minimize wasted doses](#).

### **Tactics to increase vaccination opportunities**

The Ohio Department of Health (ODH) has directed all providers to follow a first-in, first-out process for vaccine inventory management to ensure vaccine doses with the soonest expiration dates are being used first. ODH also has been aggressively working with vaccine providers to identify strategies to encourage vaccination.

In addition to ongoing efforts to offer the Johnson & Johnson vaccine during all regular, routine vaccination clinics as well as mobile and mass vaccination events, providers are urged to continue to identify additional community partnerships to encourage vaccination:

- Identify partnership opportunities with employers, libraries, and community and faith-based organizations for special vaccination clinics at those locations. As public health orders have been lifted and more businesses and organizations are resuming regular activities, providers have new opportunities to form partnerships to offer vaccinations.
- Identify mobile vaccination opportunities through partnerships at community events, including festivals, fairs, food truck events, and farmers markets, for example, or at popular entertainment destinations such as zoos or ballparks. ODH offers [mobile vaccination units](#) to support these efforts.

- Partner with local aging agencies, home-delivered meal providers, developmental disabilities boards or Medicaid waiver programs to identify and offer [vaccinations for homebound individuals](#) and their caregivers and families.
- Partner with local nursing homes and assisted living facilities as part of ongoing COVID-19 vaccine maintenance programs to determine if there are any opportunities to offer the Johnson & Johnson vaccine to new and/or unvaccinated staff members or residents.
- Offer vaccination opportunities for shelters or local jails and other correctional/detention facilities. The spread of COVID-19 remains a significant, ongoing concern in congregate settings. The short duration of stays at these facilities can make vaccination a challenge with two-dose products. The Johnson & Johnson vaccine can offer full protection with one dose.
- Hospital providers can offer the Johnson & Johnson vaccine to patients upon inpatient or emergency room discharge.
- If you are a provider and seeking Johnson & Johnson vaccine to administer, many providers have vaccine available for transfer, and ODH can assist with locating available vaccine. Please contact us at [COVIDVACCINE@odh.ohio.gov](mailto:COVIDVACCINE@odh.ohio.gov) or 1-844-9ODHVAX if you are interested in receiving doses.

### **Suggested messaging to the public**

Ongoing education about the safety of the Johnson & Johnson vaccine is crucial to the success of these efforts. We ask providers to answer patient and public questions specific to the vaccine to help build vaccine confidence, share the benefits of the Johnson & Johnson vaccine, and help dispel vaccine myths that are rampant. Below are some suggested talking points and messages to share:

- More than 5.3 million Ohioans have started the COVID-19 vaccination process, and more than 4.7 million are fully vaccinated. On June 5, Ohio hit a benchmark we've long awaited: fewer than 50 cases per 100,000 residents in Ohio. While these are positive signs, the threat of COVID-19 still remains.
- The risk of going unvaccinated impacts not only those who choose not to be vaccinated, but to those around them. Lower vaccination rates put children under 12, who don't yet have a COVID-19 vaccine authorized for their age group, at risk, as well as the small percentage of Ohioans who can't be vaccinated, or those with certain immune disorders. The bottom line is that the more Ohioans who are vaccinated, the more we can protect ourselves, and one another.
- All of the COVID-19 vaccines have been proven to be highly effective at preventing severe disease and against known variants.
- The [Johnson & Johnson vaccine](#) is a single-dose vaccine authorized for individuals ages 18 and older. Because the vaccine is available in one dose, you will be fully immunized just two weeks after receiving the vaccine. This means you can safely and quickly resume activities that you did prior to the pandemic.

Thank you for your partnership in protecting Ohioans by offering the COVID-19 vaccines.

Sincerely,  
COVID-19 Vaccine Provider Relations Team

Visit the ODH [COVID-19 Vaccine Provider Information Training page](#) for additional information and resources. Call the ODH Provider Call Center between 8 a.m. – 7 p.m. Monday through Friday at 1-844-9ODHVAX (1-844-963-4829) or email [COVIDVACCINE@odh.ohio.gov](mailto:COVIDVACCINE@odh.ohio.gov).