



Department of Health

ANDREW M. CUOMO
Governor

HOWARD A. ZUCKER, M.D., J.D.
Commissioner

LISA J. PINO, M.A., J.D.
Executive Deputy Commissioner

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Dear Colleagues,

The New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH) has learned that COVID-19 vaccine providers have consistently been able to withdraw more than five doses from one vial of the Pfizer/BioNTech vaccine. Vials have yielded six and sometimes up to seven doses.

The NYSDOH is providing the following guidance after consulting with the FDA.:

- Vaccinators may withdraw more than 5 doses from a single 5-dose vial.
- **Extra vaccine fluid from more than one vial CANNOT be combined to produce extra doses.** This is particularly important since the vaccine does not contain preservatives.
- Use any extra vaccine that can easily be drawn up into a syringe to meet the 0.3 ml dose requirement. This may be 6 or 7 doses.
- Certain syringes may allow only 5 doses to be obtained from a single vial.
- Enter all vaccines given into NYSIIS, including any additional vaccines given.
- Inventory as shown and managed in NYSIIS will have to be modified, per the attached guidance.

This guidance applies to the Pfizer/BioNTech vaccine only.

Thank you for your hard work as vaccinators and recipients of COVID-19 vaccines.

Sincerely,

Howard A. Zucker, M.D., J.D.
Commissioner