**NEW YORK CITY DEPARTMENT OF
HEALTH AND MENTAL HYGIENE**
Ashwin Vasan, MD, PhD
Commissioner

July 20, 2023

Dear COVID-19 Vaccine Provider,

We anticipate that updated COVID-19 vaccines, with a monovalent XBB.1.5 strain composition, will be available in mid to late September 2023. These vaccines will be the first COVID-19 vaccines that providers purchase from manufacturers as part of the commercial market, rather than provided at no cost by the federal government by ordering through the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (NYC Health Department). We will provide more information about the updated vaccines and guidance for their use as it becomes available.

In the meantime, it is important that providers place sufficient orders to maintain their inventory of current COVID-19 vaccines. Although we expect overall demand for the current vaccines to be low this summer, some people may need or want a COVID-19 vaccine before the updated vaccines are available. **The last day to order COVID-19 vaccines as part of the current COVID-19 vaccination programs will be August 2, 2023. After that date only limited emergency vaccine orders will be available.**

It is important to account for your COVID-19 vaccine inventory as part of COVID-19 vaccination program compliance and in case there is a program audit. The storage guidelines for Moderna and Pfizer vaccines have been updated in the last few months. Additional information about COVID-19 vaccine storage and handling can be found [here](#). Check weekly the expiration dates of vaccine in storage using the manufacturers' online expiry checking tools:
- [Moderna Vial Expiration Checker](#)
- [Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine Expiry Checker](#)
- [Novavax Expiry Date Checker](#)

Remove all monovalent and expired COVID-19 vaccine doses from your inventory, report them as 'other wastage' or 'expired vaccine' in the [CIR Online Registry](#), and then dispose of the vaccine as medical waste. Also, check the expiration date prior to preparing or administering the vaccine. **Never administer expired vaccine.** If expired vaccine is inadvertently administered:
- Review guidance on the CDC website: [Interim Clinical Considerations for Use of COVID-19 Vaccines: Appendices, References, and Previous Updates | CDC](#).
- Report vaccine administration errors to the [Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System](#).

Lastly, keep in mind that until commercialization occurs in the fall, CDC's COVID-19 Vaccination Program Provider Agreement remains in place. Pursuant to this agreement, all providers participating in the COVID-19 Vaccination Program:
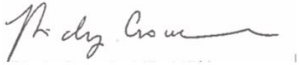- **Must** administer COVID-19 Vaccine at no out-of-pocket cost to the recipient
- May **not** deny vaccination based on the vaccine recipient's coverage or network status
- May **not** charge an office visit or other fee if COVID-19 vaccination is the sole medical service provided
- May **not** require additional medical services to receive COVID-19 vaccination
- **May** seek appropriate reimbursement from a Medicare, Medicaid, or other program or plan that covers COVID-19 vaccine administration fees for the vaccine recipient

- May **not** seek any reimbursement, including through balance billing, from the vaccine recipient

If you have questions or you are no longer administering COVID-19 vaccines, please email COVIDVax@health.nyc.gov.

Thank you for continuing to protect the health of New Yorkers.

Sincerely,

Bindy Crouch, MD, MPH
Assistant Commissioner
Bureau of Immunization
New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene