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Missouri COVID-19 Vaccinator Newsletter

June 11, 2021

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FDA Extends Shelf Life of Johnson & Johnson Vaccine

The Food & Drug Administration [authorized an extension](#) of the shelf life for the Johnson & Johnson's Janssen COVID-19 vaccine from 3 months to 4.5 months (an additional 6 weeks). The decision is based on data from ongoing stability assessment studies, which have demonstrated that the vaccine is stable at 4.5 months when refrigerated at temperatures of 36 – 46 degrees Fahrenheit (2 – 8 degrees Celsius).

Vaccine providers should visit <https://vaxcheck.inj/> to confirm the latest expiration dates of vaccine, including those currently available for administration throughout the U.S. This extension applies to refrigerated vials of J&J/Janssen COVID-19 vaccine that have been held in accordance with the manufacturer's storage conditions.

COVID-19 vaccines that are authorized under an EUA do not have fixed expiration dates, and their expiration dates can be extended as we get more stability data. Always be sure to check the manufacturer's website to obtain the most up-to-date expiration dates for COVID-19 vaccines you have on hand.

Incentive Programs

CDC encourages you to continue your efforts to increase vaccination rates and find creative ways to use up inventory that is reaching expiration dates. There are multiple programs going on across the country to help incentivize vaccination, which may help move some of the aging vaccine you still have in inventory. CDC website [vaccines.gov](https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines) has created a link to some of the rewards programs taking place in businesses and some employee incentives that are currently being implemented. The information can be found at: [Vaccines.gov - Incentives](#)

At the state level, incentive programs continue to be discussed.

School-Located Vaccination Clinics Web Resources Available

CDC has launched a new webpage with guidance for planning and implementing school-located vaccination (SLV) clinics for any routinely-recommended vaccine as well as COVID-19 vaccine. The target audiences for this guidance are public and private entities interested in planning and implementing SLV clinics, including staff from state and local public health departments, community health care clinics, pharmacies, pediatric practices, and health systems. The information may also be useful and relevant to school and school district staff. Modifiable template communication materials are also provided. The new site can be found at: [Considerations for Planning School-Located Vaccination Clinics | CDC](#)

New MMWR: Impact of Pandemic on Routine Childhood and Adolescent Vaccinations

A [new MMWR](#) analysis of immunization data from 10 U.S. jurisdictions showed a significant decrease in routine vaccinations during the same period in 2018–2019. To prevent outbreaks of vaccine-preventable diseases, public health practitioners and healthcare providers should promote routine vaccination among children to ensure they are fully vaccinated as schools reopen for in-person learning.

Draft Agenda: ACIP Emergency Meeting

On June 18, the CDC Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices will hold an [emergency meeting](#) for an update on COVID-19 vaccine safety, including myocarditis after mRNA vaccines, as well as a discussion on benefit and risk of COVID-19 mRNA vaccines in adolescents and young adults. The draft meeting agenda can be found [here](#).

Newly Translated Handout for Faith Leaders

Faith leaders around the world are sharing prevention messages to stop the spread of COVID-19. They can be a voice of hope and wisdom in these challenging times. The Association of Immunization Managers (AIM) offers new handouts on how faith leaders can help end the COVID-19 pandemic in [Spanish](#) as well as [English](#). Please share with your partners, such as coalitions and community- and faith-based organizations. As trusted leaders in their communities, faith leaders are uniquely positioned to overcome vaccine hesitancy.

Messaging Guidance: Messages that Work to Help Build Confidence in the Vaccines

- Getting vaccinated gets us back to normal. Getting vaccinated is the best way to defeat this virus and get back to safely gathering with family, friends, weddings, sports, and travel.
- The vaccine is free and available to everyone. Vaccines are available at no cost to everyone age 12 and older living in the United States, regardless of immigration or insurance status.
- If you have questions, talk to your doctor, pharmacist, or health care provider. Estimates show that 90% of doctors have gotten a shot themselves.
- More than 170 million Americans have received a vaccine. They are protected from this deadly virus and are on the path back to normal.

CDC Newsroom:

[CDC COVID-19 Study Shows mRNA Vaccines Reduce Risk of Infection by 91 Percent for Fully Vaccinated People](#)

[Decreases in COVID-19 Cases, Emergency Department Visits, Hospital Admissions, and Deaths Among Older Adults Following the Introduction of COVID-19 Vaccine — United States, September 6, 2020–May 1, 2021](#)

COVID-19 vaccination reduces risk for infection, serious illness, and death

COVID-19 vaccination coverage is higher among older adults

By May 1, 2021, 69% of adults aged ≥65 years and 26% of adults aged 18–49 years were fully vaccinated

Larger decreases have occurred in older adults than younger adults for*:

Infections
Emergency department visits
Hospitalizations
Deaths

*Outcomes assessed during September 6, 2020–May 1, 2021

Increasing vaccination coverage among all eligible people is likely to further reduce serious COVID-19 illness



Need more information?

We continuously update Missouri's **vaccinator resource hub** with information on the authorized vaccines, guidance, Missouri Vaccine Navigator, past newsletters, vaccinator FAQs and training opportunities.

DHSS contacts by topic area:

- ShowMeVax enrollment support: [Cathy Kennon](#)
- ShowMeVax troubleshooting: vfc-smvsupport@health.mo.gov
- Reporting Dose Administration assistance:
ImmunizationHL7Onboarding@health.mo.gov
- Adverse events/clinical assistance: [Lana Hudanick](#)
- Vaccine redistribution: covidvaccineredistribution@health.mo.gov
- Ordering and supply management support: covidvaccineorders@health.mo.gov
- Additional PPE and other equipment: [Jenn Stockman](#)
- Newsletters/website: [Lisa Cox](#)
- All other questions: CovidVaccine@health.mo.gov

