



COVID-19 Vaccinator Guidance: Matching Prime and Booster Doses

Prevent unmatched doses

Before we provide guidance about what to do with an unclaimed booster, here are the best practices vaccinators use to prevent the problem:

- Reach out on the day-of the missed appointment (Day-of appointment)
- Reach out the following day (Day +1 of appointment)
- Provide a final full-day for the patient to reach out (Day +2 of appointment)
- After two full days and two attempts, the vaccine is now open to alternative use

Understanding the issue

What does "unmatched" mean:

When you receive your shipment of prime vaccines for Pfizer and/or Moderna those vaccine have "matching" booster doses. When the boosters arrive, they serve to provide those who received the first doses their second doses. For reasons discussed below, booster vaccines become "unmatched" when they are unable to vaccinate their intended recipient. Even though both prime and booster doses are the same vaccine—meaning, there is no substantive difference—unmatching creates operational problems when an intended booster is used as a prime; the recipient of the prime now does not have a matching booster vaccine. In short, a booster used as a prime does not have a booster.

How doses unmatch:

The most common causes arise from appointment no-shows and extracting more vaccine than expected.

- We highly encourage you to visit our [vaccinator resource page](#) where you can find a rich set of vaccination best-practice resources. These resources help reduce wastage and prevent unmatched doses.

Unmatched booster options

Solve internally:

When vaccinators are conducting booster clinics, and have extra doses, those doses can be used to meet the future booster need instead of being converted to prime doses, provided the vaccine has not already been drawn and can be returned to storage. In addition, vaccinators may also convert a dose originally allocated as a prime to a booster dose to meet the need. It is expected that the rate of vaccine allocation coming into the state will increase significantly in the next few weeks which will aid vaccinators in solving this challenge internally.

Reach out to a community partner:

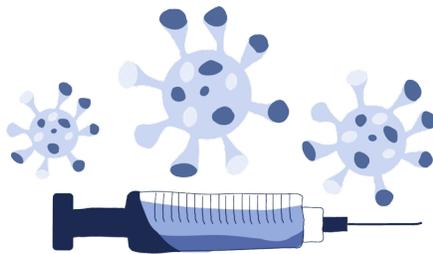
If a vaccinator is unable to internally solve the need for a matching booster in time to meet the booster need, vaccinators should reach out in advance to other local community vaccinators for availability of a booster match. It is DHSS's intent that vaccinators develop community partnerships that will lead to mutual, local solutions in many of these circumstances and will maximize dose administration while minimizing wastage.

Use EMResource as a reference to report or identify booster dose needs — EMResource is a statewide communications platform routinely used by hospitals, local public health agencies, emergency medical services and emergency management to collect and disseminate time-sensitive health care related information during disasters and emergency activations. The platform, supported through federal grant funding, has been used through the COVID-19 response for a variety of queries and data sharing.

At this time, hospitals, local public health departments, and Regional Implementation Teams can report booster doses shortages in the system. Current EMResource users are encouraged to use the COVID-19 Vaccine – Booster Deficit Request query as a tool to enter these deficits. The information submitted to the query then populates a static view to summarize current booster needs by region. Vaccinators with a time-sensitive booster dose shortage are encouraged to update the query status as soon as an unmet booster need is identified. EMResource users with surplus vaccine should reference this information to identify potential opportunities for vaccine redistribution.

When all other avenues have been exhausted

Please note that if a matching booster dose need is going to be significant and no other option has addressed the need, vaccinators should reach out to the Vaccine Ordering Team at covidvaccineorders@health.mo.gov for further discussion. DHSS is committed to the equitable distribution of vaccine. Since there are minimum order limits for each vaccine, and there is no single dose avenue for ordering or providing vaccine from federal partners, DHSS is therefore limited in its capacity to address booster shortfalls created by vaccinators. In the event DHSS is able to provide a solution to the vaccination issue, there will be detailed guidance on how to use the vaccine provided.



When receiving a redistribution of vaccine:

When a vaccinator receives vaccine from another vaccinator, it needs to be communicated and understood whether the doses being redistributed are prime or booster doses. In addition, a vaccinator must determine their plan for the doses being received as this will determine what follow-on actions will need to be taken.

- If a vaccinator receives prime doses from another vaccinator and plans to use them as prime doses, then it will need to be established as part of the redistribution process that the vaccinator distributing the prime doses will also need to provide the receiving vaccinator the matching booster at a later time.
- If a vaccinator receives booster doses and plans to use them as prime doses, then the receiving vaccinator will need to take steps to ensure they have a booster match at the required time. This could mean that a vaccinator uses only half of the doses received as prime doses, then the other half as the booster match.
- If a vaccinator receives booster doses and plans to use them as booster doses, then no further planning action will be required.

Resources & FAQs

Occasionally, the Vaccine Team receives questions from vaccinators that fall just outside previously published guidance. We will be taking the opportunity to address these questions in this forum. If you have a question that has not been met by the previously or currently published guidance for vaccinators, please [email your questions](#) to covidvaccineorders@health.mo.gov with the subject line: VACCINATOR QUESTION.

Q: What should I do when someone needs only a booster dose because they received their prime dose elsewhere and were not able to return at the designated time (due to illness, hospitalization, etc.) to receive the booster at the same location?

A: Provide the booster and understand that scheduling and inventory management will provide the opportunity for a dose to be used such as when there is a no-show at a booster clinic; or when those scheduled for a booster receive a booster dose elsewhere. If a vaccinator is having a large volume of requests for booster only appointments, please reach out to the Vaccine Team for further discussion.

When in doubt, please reach out.

If after reading this document, you have questions, please [send us an email](#).