Vaccine Administration Errors

Type of Error	Description of Error	Interim Recommendation
Incorrect Site/Route	Vaccine administered in location other than deltoid or thigh, or subcutaneous instead of Intermuscular	Do not repeat dose*
Age	Unauthorized age group	If received 1st < 16 years of age no further doses should be given. ∞ If 16 or 17 and Moderna is inadvertently given instead of Pfizer, administer a 2nd dose of Moderna.
Intervals	Second dose administered less than recommended spacing	Do not repeat dose.*
	Second dose administered longer than 42 days after first dose	Do not repeat dose, do not complete a VAERS.
	Dose administered within 14 days before or after a dose of another non COVID-19 vaccine	Do not repeat the dose of COVID-19 vaccine*, do not report to VAERS.
Mixed Series	Pfizer vaccine started but completed with a Moderna vaccine, or started with Moderna and completed with Pfizer	Do not repeat dose. §
Wrong Dose	Larger dose than authorized	Do not repeat dose, inform patient of potential for local and systemic side effects. *†
	Lower dose than authorized (leakage, patient pulled away, equipment failure)	If more than half the dose was administered do not repeat.* If less than half the dose was administered or you cannot estimate, administer a second dose immediately in opposite arm. #
Storage and Handling Errors	Dose administered after improper storage and handling, more than 6 hours after 1st puncture	Contact the manufacturer for guidance. If the manufacturer states to repeat the dose, do so immediately, administering the vaccine in the opposite arm.

	Administering an expired dose	Contact the manufacturer for guidance, if the manufacturer states to repeat the dose do so immediately, administering the vaccine in the opposite arm.
Diluent issues	Diluent instead of vaccine administered	Immediately administer the vaccine in the opposite arm.
	Vaccine administered was not diluted	Do not repeat dose, inform patient of potential for local and systemic side effects. #
	Incorrect diluent used	Contact the manufacturer for guidance. If the manufacturer provides information supporting that the dose should be repeated, the repeated dose may be given immediately (no minimum interval) in the opposite arm.
	Wrong amount of diluent used, however dose was still 0.3ml	For doses administered with diluent volume less than 1.8 ml, inform the recipient of the potential for local and systemic adverse events. * † For doses administered with diluent volume greater than 1.8 ml, do not repeat dose. * (Note: dilution with a volume up to 4.0 ml [which exceeds vial capacity] results in more-than-half of the authorized dose administered).

* If the dose given in error is the first dose, a second dose should be administered at the recommended interval (21 days [Pfizer-BioNTech] or 28 days [Moderna]). If this dose is the second dose, the series is complete and no additional doses are needed.

If the dose given in error is the first dose, the second dose should be administered at the recommended interval (21 days [Pfizer-BioNTech] or 28 days [Moderna]) from the date of receipt of the valid dose (not the date of receipt of the erroneous dose).

† If the administration error resulted in a higher-than-authorized vaccine dose, in general the second dose may still be administered at the recommended interval. However, if local or systemic side effects following vaccination are clinically concerning (outside of the expected side effect profile), lead to serious adverse reactions, or are ongoing at the time of the second dose, the decision to administer the second dose may be assessed on a case-by-case basis.

§ Although CDC provides considerations for a mixed series in exceptional circumstances, this is still considered an administration error that requires VAERS reporting (as a mixed series is not authorized under the vaccine Emergency Use Authorization).