

Maine Immunization Program Statement of Policy

Title of Policy: Use of open multidose vaccine vials
Reviewed: 3/31/26

Purpose: This statement sets forth the guidelines that are to be met in using and administering open multidose vials of vaccine. The provider of any **state** supplied vaccine agrees to follow the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommendations on storage and handling.

- Certain vaccines are distributed in multidose vials. When opened, the remaining doses from **partially used multidose vials** can be administered until the **expiration date printed** on the vial or vaccine packaging, **provided that the vial has been stored correctly and that the vaccine is not visibly contaminated.**¹
- Multidose vaccines are acceptable to use until the expiration date listed on the vial.²
- Multi-dose vaccines opened longer than 30 days that meet USP requirements **must not** be discarded until the expiration date listed on the package insert.
- Recommendations for handling and storage of selected biological are summarized in the package insert for each product. The most current information about recommended vaccine storage conditions and handling instructions can be obtained directly from the manufacturers.³

Reference:

<http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/rr5102a1.htm> / MMWR 2/002
<https://www.jointcommission.org/en-us/knowledge-library/support-center/standards-interpretation/standards-faqs/000002221>

¹ MMWR 2/2002

² Ask the Experts, Needle Tips 10/04

³ Red Book 2003, page 10