



## **Important Notice Regarding COVID-19 Vaccines--Moving to ALL Direct Shipments**

Dear COVID-19 Vaccine Provider,

From the time COVID-19 vaccine began to arrive in South Carolina in December 2020, the state has maintained a Receive, Store, Ship (RSS) capability to allow for smaller quantities of vaccine to be redistributed to certain providers in our state. Initially, and through most of 2021, vaccine was received in minimum quantities of over 1,000 doses. This presented logistical challenges for many smaller or rural providers who did not have ultra-cold storage capability or the capacity to store this many doses. Thankfully, those minimum order quantities for shipment have decreased over time and storage and handling requirements have become less restrictive. For these reasons, we believe providers are now well-positioned to receive direct shipment of minimum order quantities of vaccine product and are also well positioned to utilize their doses within the use-by window.

**ALL** COVID-19 vaccine requests placed after 12:00PM, Monday, June 20, for receipt the week of July 4, will be direct shipment orders. This will be the case for all orders going forward. Orders which previously came from DHEC's redistribution center will no longer be available options and providers placing orders must order at least the minimum quantities in VAMS to receive COVID vaccinations. Those providers who initially requested below these thresholds will be rounded to the nearest minimum order increment. DHEC will provide further information as more vaccinations become available or as minimum shipments change.

### **Minimum shipments are:**

Pfizer 12y and older: **300 doses**

Pfizer 5y-11y: **100 doses**

Pfizer 6m-4y: **100 doses**

Moderna 18y and older: **100 doses**

Moderna 12y-17y: **TBD**

Moderna 6y-11y: **TBD**

Moderna 6m-5y: **100 doses**

### **Practice waste mitigation:**

If you have any soon to be expiring vaccine that may result in wastage, please contact another enrolled COVID provider and setup a transfer and/or contact DHEC to see if we can help identify a provider that may be able to use it. Please note that Pfizer vaccines may be stored in refrigerated temperatures for up to 10 weeks.

**Please review all safe storage and handling practices by visiting:**

<https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/hcp/admin/storage/toolkit/index.html>

## [Vaccines Storage and Handling Toolkit | CDC](#)

Vaccine Storage and Handling Toolkit. View or Print Toolkit. The Vaccine Storage and Handling Toolkit is a comprehensive guide that reflects best practices for vaccine storage and handling from Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) recommendations, product information from vaccine manufacturers, and scientific studies.

[www.cdc.gov](http://www.cdc.gov)

Please send questions to [COVIDVaccines@dhec.sc.gov](mailto:COVIDVaccines@dhec.sc.gov).