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Subject: [EXTERNAL] Louisiana Health Alert Network (LA HAN)--Information and FAQs on the Pfizer COVID-19 Vaccines for Hospitals/Providers

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Message Urgency: HIGH

This is a message from the Louisiana Department of Health Emergency Operations Center (LDH EOC) for the Louisiana Health Alert Network (LA HAN) recipients. This message is from the Office of Public Health Immunization Program regarding **information and frequently asked questions about the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine for hospitals/providers that have received it** . Please see the information below and share/distribute to all partners and stakeholders as appropriate.

This Louisiana Health Alert contains important information for providers of the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine. In this document you will find links to information about recommendations, clinical considerations, the Emergency Use Authorization, and frequently asked questions, detailed information about administration, and storage and handling. There is also an important link to information about dealing with possible allergic reactions to the vaccine.

Important Considerations for Vaccinators on the 6th Dose

- **FDA Center for Biologics Evaluation and Research Prevention has indicated that it is now acceptable to use every full dose obtainable from each product vial. Initially, the EUA issued for this product authorized five doses per vial. There is the potential for a sixth and potential seventh dose from each of the vials.**
- **Until further guidance, administer full doses, including a sixth or possibly a seventh dose from a vial. Regional Immunization Consultants will also be contacting facilities to ensure proper inventory tracking practices are maintained with this process.**
- **Reminder: Once a frozen vial of Pfizer vaccine is physically removed from ultra-cold temperature, it cannot be returned. The vial then must be thawed with doses administered within 2 hours at room temperature or vial can be placed into refrigeration with the need to administer doses from that refrigerated vial within five days (120 hours) from the start of the refrigeration period.**
- **Any redistributed Pfizer vaccine must be packed and transported at refrigerated temperature. Upon receipt of Pfizer vaccine that has been redistributed at refrigerated temperature, you must store the vaccine at refrigerated temperature, not into a freezer or ultra-cold unit.**

Guidance for appropriate medical treatment for severe allergic reactions must be immediately available in the event that an acute anaphylactic reaction occurs following administration of Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine: <https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/covid-19/info-by-product/pfizer/anaphylaxis-management.html>

Pfizer BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine Overview: <https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/covid-19/info-by-product/pfizer/index.html>

Pfizer BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine EUA: <https://www.fda.gov/emergency-preparedness-and-response/coronavirus-disease-2019-covid-19/pfizer-biontech-covid-19-vaccine>

Pfizer BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine Interim Clinical Considerations: <https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/covid-19/info-by-product/pfizer/clinical-considerations.html>

Pfizer BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine ACIP Recommendations: <https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/hcp/acip-recs/vacc-specific/covid-19.html>

Pfizer BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine FAQ: <https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/covid-19/info-by-product/pfizer/pfizer-bioNTech-faqs.html>

Contacts for Questions & Assistance: If you have questions about the Pfizer BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine, please email them to la.immunization@la.gov .

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