

**To:** Primary Care and Pharmacy COVID-19 Vaccine Clinics  
**Subject:** Accessing Multiple Vials to Complete a Dose of Pfizer BioNTech and Moderna COVID-19 Vaccine  
**Date:** June 1, 2021

During this time of limited COVID-19 vaccine supply, an additional dose may be obtained from up to 3 COVID-19 vaccine vials with residual vaccine. Although this is not routine practice, access to additional doses will increase the number of Ontarians who can benefit from vaccine in a timely manner. Proper procedures must be followed to ensure that the safety and quality of the vaccine is not affected.

Refer to Ministry of Health's [COVID-19: Vaccine Storage and Handling Guidance](#) (Appendix E) for more information.

**Procedure:**

- Only a trained and dedicated mixer should be drawing up COVID-19 vaccine.
- Aseptic technique must be strictly adhered to. Vial stoppers must be cleaned prior to every puncture.
- A **maximum of 3 vials** with residual vaccine may be accessed to extract one additional dose.
- COVID-19 vaccine vials used for an additional dose must all have the same lot number.
- If using Pfizer, the vaccine must have been mixed with diluent from the same lot number.
- A mixer must use the most recent expiry time when calculating how long the additional dose is valid for.
- Where possible a mixer should use a LDV syringe and 1" Smart Slip needle to increase their ability to obtain an additional dose.
- Once the pooled dose is obtained, the mixer must change the needle tip prior to the dose being administered.
- Do not save up vials until the end of the clinic before combining for an extra dose. The different vials accessed must have been under the same vaccine storage and handling conditions.
- Clinic staff must keep track of the additional doses obtained during a COVID-19 vaccination clinic for inventory purposes and report accordingly.