Our goal continues to be to vaccinate as many people as quickly and fairly as possible in North Carolina against COVID-19.

**Key Updates:**

**COVID-19 Provider Toolkit:** A new NC DHHS COVID-19 Vaccine Provider Toolkit provides a step by step walk through of becoming a vaccine provider, all the way from considerations to think about at the outset all the way through onboarding, training, receiving vaccines and administration, and reaching out to your population to encourage vaccination. You can access the Provider Toolkit [here](#) (see Section 9.0).

**COVID-19 Vaccination Coding and Billing Resources:** A new NC DHHS resource has been created to help to explain cost, coding and billing for COVID-19 vaccines with private payers, Medicare, Medicaid, HRSA uninsured program, and Health Choice. Please see Section 18.0 and more detailed information [here](#).

**Updated Pfizer COVID-19 Vaccine EUA Information About Refrigerator Storage and Dose Configuration:** On May 19, 2021, the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) amended the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Emergency Use Authorization and authorized undiluted, thawed Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine vials to be stored in the refrigerator at 2°C to 8°C (35°F to 46°F) for up to 1 month. Previously, thawed, undiluted vaccine vials could be stored in the refrigerator for up to 5 days. The FDA also amended Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 EUA to include a new 450-dose order configuration. (See Section 13.1)

**Pfizer 450 Ancillary Kits:** Ancillary kits have been created to support the 450-dose minimum order size. When placing orders, you should select an order intention of Adult or Pediatric for the Pfizer 450 order. The Adult ancillary kits contain the same ratio of 1” to 1.5” needles as the 1170 kit. The Pediatric ancillary kit contains only 1” needles. (See Section 13.1)

**Cases of Myocarditis and Pericarditis After Receiving COVID-19 Vaccine:** Since April 2021, cases of myocarditis and pericarditis have been reported in the United States after mRNA COVID-19 vaccination (Pfizer-BioNTech and Moderna), particularly in adolescents and young adults. There has not been a similar reporting pattern observed after receipt of the Janssen COVID-19 Vaccine (Johnson & Johnson). The CDC, American Academy of Pediatrics and other medical and public health groups [continue to recommend](#) use of mRNA COVID-19 vaccines for everyone 12 years and older. Providers should report cases of myocarditis or pericarditis within two weeks of any COVID-19 vaccination to the U.S. Vaccine Adverse Events Reporting System (VAERS): [https://vaers.hhs.gov.reportevent.html](https://vaers.hhs.gov/reportevent.html) It is recommended that the evaluating (not administering) provider report the incident to VAERS so appropriate clinical details can be reported accurately [https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/covid-19/clinical-considerations/myocarditis.html](https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/covid-19/clinical-considerations/myocarditis.html) (See Section 11.10.3)
Expiration of Vaccine: Over the next two months, several lots of Pfizer, Moderna, and Johnson & Johnson (Janssen) vaccines are set to expire. With vaccine inventory on provider shelves, it is critical that providers have controls and processes in place to monitor the expiration dates of on-hand inventory and pull lots that have the earliest expiration dates for administering doses first. Go to Section 13.5 for information about how to check expiration dates for each vaccine and for strategies for how to minimize unused expired doses and manage expired doses.

PLEASE NOTE: The U.S. Food & Drug Administration (FDA) has authorized an extension of the shelf life for the Johnson & Johnson (Janssen) single-shot COVID-19 vaccine from 3 months to 4.5 months. The decision is based on data from ongoing stability assessment studies, which have demonstrated that the vaccine is stable at 4.5 months when refrigerated at temperatures of 36 – 46 degrees Fahrenheit (2 – 8 degrees Celsius). Vaccine providers should visit www.vaxcheck.jnj to confirm the latest expiration dates of the vaccine.

Wastage and Disposal of Vaccines and Related Materials: It is important to use appropriate strategies for wastage and disposal of vaccines and other materials for many reasons including but not limited to health, safety and reducing the risk of fake or counterfeit vaccines. The recommendation is to dispose of vials and packaging as medical waste by placing vials in a sharps container and packaging in a red medical waste bag. There is also a CDC document about the Identification, Disposal, and Reporting of COVID-19 Vaccine Wastage at: https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/covid-19/downloads/wastage-operational-summary.pdf

Summer Cash Drawings: Governor Cooper announced the $4 Million Summer Cash and Summer Cash 4 College Drawings to motivate those who have not yet been vaccinated—and thank those who have. Four North Carolinians 18 and older will win $1 million each, and four North Carolinians ages 12 to 17 will win tuition for post-secondary education. (See Section 6.4.3)

Summer Cards: Anyone 18 years and older who gets their first dose of a COVID-19 vaccine, or drives someone to a vaccination at a participating provider—will receive a $25 Summer Card at participating locations. The $25 Summer Card program is now available at participating vaccination sites in the following 38 counties. Those interested in the program can visit YourSpotYourShot.nc.gov or call 888-675-4567 to find a participating location.

CVMS Updates and Vaccine Marketplace: CVMS Version 8.0 was released June 13 and included many enhancements. (See Section 7.6 CVMS Updates) Updates included vaccine inventory enhancements that enable the “Vaccine Marketplace” for providers to self-identify vaccine needs and match with other providers, preventing potential wastage due to dose expiration. Please see this user guide (linked here) and this job aid (linked here) for exact instructions on how to post available vaccine doses to the Marketplace.(See Section 7.7)