

# Childhood Vaccine Program

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## Polio Vaccine Multidose Vial Expiration

- IPV does not need to be discarded 28 days after puncturing the multidose vial.
- Punctured multidose vials of IPV can be used through the last day of the expiration month & year printed on the box unless the vaccine has been compromised and determined non-viable by the manufacturer (e.g. temperature excursion). For example, if the expiration date is listed as 3/2024, the vaccine can be used through end of day 3/31/24.

## References

### [CDC Vaccine Storage & Handling Toolkit \(pg. 21 section on Multidose vials\)](#)

**NOTE: There is no BUD noted in the [IPV manufacturer's package insert](#).**

#### Multidose Vials

A multidose vial (MDV) contains more than one dose of vaccine. Because MDVs typically contain a preservative to help prevent the growth of microorganisms, they can be entered or punctured more than once. Only the number of doses indicated in the manufacturer's package insert should be withdrawn from the vial. After the maximum number of doses has been withdrawn, the vial should be discarded, even if there is residual vaccine or the expiration date has not been reached.

MDVs can be used until the expiration date printed on the vial unless the vaccine is contaminated or compromised in some way or there is a BUD noted in the package insert.

### [Immunization Action Coalition's Ask the Experts on Vaccine Storage & Handling](#)

#### STORAGE & HANDLING / VACCINE VIABILITY AND EXPIRATION

What are the CDC guidelines regarding use of multiple dose vaccine vials?

With the exception of COVID-19 vaccines, vaccines in multidose vials (MDVs) that do not require reconstitution contain preservatives and can be used through the expiration date printed on the label as long as the vaccine is not contaminated, unless indicated otherwise by the manufacturer. For example, inactivated polio vaccine in an MDV can be used through the expiration date on the vial. For some vaccines, the manufacturer specifies that once the MDV has been entered or the rubber stopper punctured, the vaccine must be used within a certain number of days. This is commonly referred to as the "beyond-use date" (BUD). Any vaccine not used within the BUD should be discarded. Specific information regarding the BUD can be found in the product information. For example, the package insert for some inactivated influenza vaccine indicates once the stopper of the MDV has been pierced, the vial must be discarded within 28 days. Package inserts for vaccines can be found at [www.immunize.org/fda](http://www.immunize.org/fda).

Be careful to follow current guidance from the manufacturer and CDC for how long an MDV of COVID-19 vaccine may be used after puncturing the vial. The COVID-19 vaccine MDVs do not contain preservatives and must be used within hours; specific times vary by product.

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