

From: WA Department of Health <waDOH@public.govdelivery.com>

Subject: DOH - Help Prevent Vaccine Waste - Important Updates for Fall

Sent: August 8, 2025



Dear Childhood Vaccine Program providers and partners,

As we head into fall, the [Washington State Department of Health](#) (DOH), [Washington Chapter of the Academy of Pediatrics](#) (WCAAP), and the [Washington Vaccine Association](#) (WVA) are working together to prevent vaccine waste and protect the long-term stability of Washington's universal Childhood Vaccine Program.

In state fiscal year 2024, 20% of the RSV and COVID-19 products distributed to providers went unused. Some doses expired before they could be administered, others were lost due to storage and handling errors, and additional doses were wasted through other means. The resulting return and wastage cost of approximately \$4 million is unsustainable. We must work together to reduce this waste and protect the financial sustainability of our universal vaccine purchase program.

COVID-19 and Nirsevimab are among the costliest vaccines in the program. Currently, more than 11,000 vials of COVID-19 vaccine remain in the field and are at risk of being wasted. Approximately 1,800 vials of Nirsevimab will expire on October 31, 2025, and an additional 3,200 vials will expire on November 30, 2025. While there is no shortage of COVID-19 or RSV vaccine, we need your help to be good stewards of these valuable resources so we can continue to maintain a system that supports equitable access and operational efficiency for providers across our state.

What you can do

The most effective way that individual clinicians and practices can protect the system is by managing vaccine inventories more responsibly. We ask providers to:

1. Check your inventory. If you have more than one month's supply of COVID-19 or RSV doses, please post excess doses on the [Vaccine Advertisement page](#) in the IIS.
2. [Search for available transfers in the IIS](#) before placing new COVID-19 or RSV vaccine orders.
3. Order smaller amounts, more often, and ensure proper storage safeguards, especially during extreme weather or power outages. Providers will have the opportunity to order at least weekly.

The COVID-19 vaccine remains a required part of routine inventory for Childhood Vaccine Program providers. To improve accountability and reduce waste, we're increasing order oversight. For certain products, such as Nirsevimab, hospitals and clinics should plan to request doses through transfers first.

These updates reflect our shared responsibility to reduce waste, maximize access, and protect the sustainability of this critical public health program. For help with transfers, please refer to the [Vaccine Transfer Checklist](#) and [FAQs](#). Information on vaccine ordering, returns, and choice can be found [here](#). You can also reach out to us at WACHildhoodVaccines@doh.wa.gov.

More resources are available on the [COVID-19 Vaccine Information for Healthcare Providers web page](#). We will be offering webinars and tools to support this effort. Your clinic's involvement is important to make this work. Thank you for your partnership and your continued commitment to immunizing Washington state's kids.

Warm regards,

**Washington State
Department of Health**

**Washington Chapter of the
American Academy of
Pediatrics**

Washington Vaccine Association



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