



New York State Vaccines for Children (NYS VFC) Program

Job Aid: Return or Discard

All publicly-funded, nonviable¹ vaccine must be reported to the NYS VFC Program via the New York State Immunization Information System (NYSIIS) on a monthly basis*.

Nonviable, unopened and intact publicly-funded vaccine vials and syringes should be returned to the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) Centralized Distributor, McKesson Specialties, for federal excise tax credit. Nonviable vaccine vials and syringes that have been opened, damaged, or have been expired or spoiled² for more than 6 months are not eligible to be returned and should be discarded as medical waste.

	Return	Discard
Description	Products that can be returned to McKesson	Products that cannot be returned to McKesson
Examples	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Vaccine vials and/or pre-filled syringes that have passed their expiration date**, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Vaccine that has passed its original expiration date Vaccine that is expired due to a manufacturer-shortened expiration date³ Vaccine vials and/or pre-filled syringes that have become non-viable due to exposure to inappropriate temperatures (spoiled)**, including vaccine that became spoiled due to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> power outage equipment failure door left open or an incorrect thermostat setting Vaccine that has been recalled by the manufacturer (uncommon) 	Vaccine vials and/or pre-filled syringes that have been opened or damaged in some way including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Broken vials/syringes Used syringes, with or without needles Vaccine vials that were drawn up but not administered Opened/entered multi-dose vials that are expired or spoiled (e.g., IPOL) Non-vaccine products: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Diluent⁴ (includes all viable, expired and/or non-viable diluent) IG, HBIG, PPD
Process/Steps	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Immediately remove the nonviable vaccine from the storage unit and label it "Do Not Use". Create a Returns/Wastage Request in NYSIIS*. The Returns/Wastage request is approved by NYS VFC staff and sent to the CDC. Your NYSIIS Inventory will decrement automatically. You will receive a return label from McKesson. Tape one label on each box. Print the NYSIIS Return Request page and place it in the box of vaccine. Note: Only return the vaccines listed on the NYSIIS Return Request page. Give the packed and labeled box(es) to UPS. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Label the vaccine "Do Not Use" and remove from storage unit, if necessary. Create a Returns/Wastage Request in NYSIIS*. The Returns/Wastage request is reviewed and approved by NYS VFC staff. Your NYSIIS Inventory will decrement automatically. Discard of the product per your office's policies for medical waste disposal.

*For instructions and information on how to use NYSIIS to report returns/wastage, refer to the **NYSIIS Returns/Wastage Training Handout**.

If you have vaccine that has been expired or spoiled for longer than 6 months, call the VFC program. For additional information on monitoring expiration dates and definitions of key terms, refer to the **NYS VFC Program Job Aid: Monitoring Expiration Dates.

Resources

New York State Department of Health, Vaccines for Children (VFC) Program

(1)800-543-7468 nyvfc@health.ny.gov <http://www.health.ny.gov/vfc>

New York State Department of Health, New York State Immunization Information System (NYSIIS)

http://www.health.ny.gov/prevention/immunization/information_system/status.htm

¹**Nonviable** vaccine refers to vaccine that can no longer be used for any reason including: expiration, spoilage due to temperature excursion, vaccine that has been opened/damaged (e.g., broken syringe, vaccine that was drawn up but not administered, etc.). Viable vaccine and privately funded vaccine are not eligible to be returned to McKesson.

² **Spoiled** vaccine refers to vaccine that has been exposed to inappropriate storage conditions and has been deemed nonviable by the manufacturer.

³ If vaccine has been exposed to inappropriate storage conditions, potency may be reduced before the expiration date. The **manufacturer** may **shorten** the expiration date.

⁴ A **diluent** is a liquid that is mixed with a lyophilized (freeze-dried) vaccine prior to administration in a process called reconstitution. Some consist of sterile water only, but others may contain a variety of other substances.