



**Health**

300 Carlton Street, Winnipeg MB R3B 3M9  
[www.manitoba.ca](http://www.manitoba.ca)

June 5, 2023

## **SPRING CLEANING – VACCINE RETURNS**

All health care providers are kindly asked to do a scan of their vaccine fridges to locate all expired publicly funded vaccines and arrange with the provincial distribution warehouse (MDA) to have them returned. **Manitoba may receive credit for expired vaccines that have been returned.**

This is especially important for influenza vaccines. All expired and unusable doses should be returned to MDA **within two months of expiry.**

- Fill out the updated return form located within Manitoba Health's Return Policy and Procedure at <https://www.gov.mb.ca/health/publichealth/cdc/div/docs/vbrpp.pdf>. Include the return form with the returns package back to MDA.
- When placing your next vaccine order through MDA, notify customer service that you have expired vaccines that need to be returned and an arrangement will be made to have those products picked up.
- Locations within Winnipeg can schedule a pick-up of expired flu vaccines to coincide with the delivery of their next vaccine order.
- For returns from locations outside Winnipeg: when a new vaccine order is received, place and secure the expired vaccines in the shipping container, along with the packaging and the cold chain monitor that are to be returned to MDA using the waybill and instructions that are provided.
- For northern and remote communities including First Nations Inuit Health, returns are processed quarterly. Please contact the warehouse to schedule a pick-up for the next available opportunity.
- Please, ensure all returned products are properly secured within the return box. The maintenance of the cold chain for returns is not required unless otherwise advised.

Prior to returning the vaccines, remove all expired stock from your vaccine fridge to ensure that it is not inadvertently administered to a patient. Expired vaccines can be stored at room temperature in a separate area until they are ready to be returned.

For COVID-19 vaccines, their expiry date may be different from what is on the packaging. Please refer to the COVID-19 Vaccine Storage and Handling Quick Reference Chart [https://www.gov.mb.ca/asset\\_library/en/covidvaccine/storage-handling-chart.pdf](https://www.gov.mb.ca/asset_library/en/covidvaccine/storage-handling-chart.pdf). Any expired unused product should also be returned to MDA for proper disposal.

Any locations that manage their inventory through PHIMS should make sure to adjust their inventory accordingly to ensure it reflects the correct inventory on hand.

Please **DO NOT return STI medications or other non-publicly funded products** to MDA. These will not be accepted by warehouse staff.

For assistance with returning vaccines, please contact MDA at 204-948-1333, toll-free at 855-683-3306, or via email at [vacmda@gov.mb.ca](mailto:vacmda@gov.mb.ca).

If you have any questions, please contact Communicable Disease Control at 204-788-6737 or by email at [vaccines@gov.mb.ca](mailto:vaccines@gov.mb.ca).

Thank you for your cooperation.  
Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "R. Baydack".

Richard Baydack, PhD  
A/Co – Executive Director,  
Population and Public Health  
Director, Communicable Disease