

Reducing Vaccine Wastage



Division of
Immunization

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Vaccine Loss and Wastage

Vaccine loss or wastage is defined by IDOH as any incident or vaccine loss, which prevents a vaccine from being properly administered. This includes all spoiled, expired or wasted vaccines.

Providers collaborating with the IDOH Immunization Division to vaccinate Hoosiers are required to document and report all incidents of vaccine loss and wastage. Providers must complete a Vaccine Return transaction in the Vaccine Ordering Management System (VOMS), when available, or submit a paper form (State Form 54052) within 30 days of the vaccine loss. If a provider's office has vaccine wastage of 5% or greater, the Immunization Division can ask for restitution of the cost of the vaccine wastage.

Types of Vaccine Waste

- **Non-Preventable Loss:** Provider is not responsible for cost of vaccine (area power outages, unavoidable refrigerator or freezer failure, transport company error, etc.).
- **Non-Compliance:** Provider is responsible for cost of vaccine (failure to properly document in VOMS, administration of publicly-funded vaccines to patients who do not qualify, etc.).
- **Negligence:** Provider is responsible for cost of vaccine (loss of vaccine due to improper storage, vaccines left out of refrigerator or freezer for longer time than allotted, storage unit unplugged or circuit breaker turned off, door of storage unit left ajar, etc.).

Preventing Loss and Wastage

- Assign a primary and secondary vaccine coordinator
- Provide annual training to all staff who are involved vaccine ordering, storage and administration.
- Check all vaccine storage units twice daily. Assess outlets, and temperature of all units.
- Check expiration dates daily on all vaccines.
- Contact IDOH Immunization Department and the vaccine manufacturer as soon as a vaccine deviation has occurred.
- Do not pre-draw vaccines. Only draw up vaccine once the patient is ready to receive the vaccine.

Resources

- [IDOH Policy: Loss, Wastage, and Reimbursement](#)
- [CDC Vaccine Storage](#)



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