



**TO: DDG: CHIEF OF OPERATIONS /CHIEF DIRECTORS / DIRECTORS
HEADS OF INSTITUTIONS**

HEAD OF HEALTH: CITY OF CAPE TOWN

**N.B. FOR CIRCULATION TO ALL MEDICAL, PARAMEDICAL, PHARMACEUTICAL, AND
NURSING PERSONNEL**

CIRCULAR H136/ 2022

VACCINE WASTAGE DURING COVID -19 VACCINATION

Please refer to the attached National Department of Health Circular 7 of 2002 which provides further clarity on avoidable and unavoidable vaccine wastage.



Chief Director: ECSS

DATE: 23 Sep 2022





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**TO:
HEADS OF PROVINCIAL HEALTH DEPARTMENTS
HEADS OF PHARMACEUTICAL SERVICES
DISTRICT AND PHC MANAGERS
COVID-19 VACCINE PROGRAMME MANAGERS
COVID-19 VACCINATION SITE MANAGERS**

NATIONAL VACCINATION PROGRAMME CIRCULAR 7 OF 2022

VACCINE WASTAGE DURING COVID-19 VACCINATION

1. Vaccine wastage occurs in most vaccination programmes and is influenced by various factors that can be specific to the vaccine or the vaccinator. The wastage is divided into two categories, namely wastage in open vials and wastage in unopened vials.
2. Wastage in unopened vaccine vials is mainly due to poor stock control practices, and/or poor cold chain or logistics processes. It is considered avoidable and, therefore, unacceptable. However, wastage in open vials or during use is considered unavoidable.
3. Vaccination sites should minimise wastage where possible. However, any intervention to reduce vaccine wastage should not result in lower immunisation coverage or contribute to missed opportunities for vaccination.
4. The risk of vaccine wastage should always be weighed against the benefits of vaccination, and the importance of maintaining high immunisation coverage. Various strategies can be implemented to reduce vaccine wastage in open vials. Such strategies may include planning immunisation sessions or scheduling vaccine recipients.
5. However, during periods of decreased demand, it is essential to open a vial for use even if the ideal number of vaccine recipients are not at the vaccination site. This will assist to increase the levels of immunisation coverage while reducing the risk of avoidable wastage due to vaccines expiring at vaccination sites.

**DR SSS BUTHELEZI
DIRECTOR-GENERAL: HEALTH**

DATE: 20/09/2022