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## COVID-19 Response Efforts - April 13, 2022

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The State of Ohio Board of Pharmacy is committed to protecting the health and safety of Ohioans during the COVID-19 outbreak. The Board posted a document on its website that provides COVID-19 guidance and response efforts, including the issuance of waivers to assist licensees in addressing operational needs. **Waivers can be found starting on page 5 of this document:**

[www.pharmacy.ohio.gov/COVID](http://www.pharmacy.ohio.gov/COVID).

For more information on the state's efforts to address coronavirus, visit [www.coronavirus.ohio.gov](http://www.coronavirus.ohio.gov) or call 1-833-4-ASK-ODH.

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### Johnson & Johnson COVID-19 Vaccine Shelf Life Extension

The U.S. Food & Drug Administration (FDA) announced the authorization of a two-month extension of the shelf life for the [Johnson & Johnson \(Janssen\) COVID-19 vaccine](#) from 9 months (270 days) to **11 months (330 days)**.

Based on ongoing stability assessment studies, the FDA determined that the vaccine remains safe and effective for administration at least 9 months when maintained at refrigerator temperatures of 36 to 46 degrees Fahrenheit (2 to 8 degrees Celsius).

This shelf life extension from 9 months to 11 months is applicable to vials that recently expired as long as unopened, unpunctured vials continued to be stored according to the recommended storage conditions.

Vaccine providers should confirm the expiration date before administration by visiting the [Janssen COVID-19 Vaccine Expiry Checker](#) webpage.

Please visit the Janssen website for providers for step-by-step instructions on [how to obtain the expiration date](#) using a mobile or desktop device or by phone, including an option to scan the data matrix code on the back of the carton.

**IMPORTANT: Providers should be sure to do the following:**

- **Check the expiration date with every new lot before the first patient administration.**
- **Follow an approach to use vaccine doses with the shortest expiration date.**
- **Confirm the expiration date prior to discarding any doses.**

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