

Topic: Multi-Dose Vials

Upcoming Webinar Series

[Join us](#) for an upcoming webinar series that launches Sept 13 to learn about [Infection Prevention Essentials](#). You can register and find additional information [here](#)! Nursing continuing education credits will be offered for each session.

Tools and Resources

Project Firstline Video: [Episode 8 – Part 1: How do I Safely Use a Multi-Dose Vaccine Vial?](#)

Project Firstline Video: [Episode 8 – Part 2: How do I Safely Use a Multi-Dose Vaccine Vial?](#)

Injection Safety—Multi-Dose Vials: https://www.cdc.gov/injectionsafety/providers/provider_faqs_multivials.html

Injection Safety—The One & Only Campaign: <https://www.cdc.gov/injectionsafety/one-and-only.html>

Chicago Department of Public Health: <https://www.chicagohan.org/en/web/hai/pfi>



The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Project Firstline initiative aims to provide infection prevention and control training for front-line healthcare workers by supporting their efforts to understand and confidently apply the principles necessary to protect themselves, their facility, and their community from infectious disease threats.

Multi-Dose Vials

Multi-dose vials are different from single-dose vials in several ways. There are important injection safety actions to take when using them to keep them from being contaminated and ensure they are being used safely between patients.

A multi-dose vial is a vial of liquid medication intended for administration (injection or infusion) that contains more than one dose of the medication. Multi-dose vials are labeled as such by the manufacturer. Multi-dose vials are accessed by a new needle and syringe more than once, leaving the potential for infection control issues.

If a needle or syringe is dirty and goes into the vial, it will contaminate the remaining doses of the medication or vaccine inside. Once the vial is contaminated it can no longer be used and must be thrown away. Using a contaminated vial puts the patient at risk for further illness or death. If a contaminated vial is used, public health authorities should be notified immediately.

Injection Safety Steps

Injection safety is important when accessing multi-dose vials. Below are steps to take when using a multi-dose vial:

- 1) Always prepare a multi-dose vial in a clean space away from patients.
- 2) Clean hands before touching the vial.
- 3) Check the label to make sure it is a multi-dose vial and that it isn't expired or used beyond its date.
- 4) Ensure the vaccine or medication looks the way the manufacturer describes it.
- 5) Always use a brand-new, sterile needle and a brand-new, sterile syringe for every dose.
- 6) Always disinfect the top of the vial thoroughly with an alcohol prep pad, and let it dry before sticking the needle in to draw up the dose.
- 7) Follow the manufacturer's instructions for how long a medication or vaccine can be used after the vial is first accessed, and when the vial should be thrown away.
- 8) Ensure that the vial is stored following the manufacturer's instructions.

***Please reach out to
InfectionPrevention@team-iha.org
if you have any questions or comments.***