



**MANAGING WASTED OR EXPIRED H1N1 VACCINES
FOR NON-PUBLIC PROVIDERS**

As the H1N1 Campaign winds down, health providers will have unused, expired vaccine. This document provides guidance to non-Public Health H1N1 providers on how to manage wasted or expired H1N1 vaccine. **This guidance pertains to all H1N1 vaccines received during the 09-10 influenza season, and only H1N1 vaccines. It does not apply to non-H1N1 vaccine.**

Vaccine is considered 'wasted' (no longer viable) when it is:

- Determined non-viable due to improper storage;
- Drawn into a syringe but not administered the same clinic day;
- Damaged during or prior to administration; or
- Damaged in transit or upon receipt at the provider's office

Vaccine is considered 'expired' (no longer viable) when it is:

- Stamped with a date of expiration that falls in the past

Section 1. Guidelines for Proper Disposal of H1N1 Vaccine

Vaccine that can no longer be given must be disposed of properly, as with other kinds of biomedical or potentially harmful waste. Medical clinics generally have an existing contract with a biomedical waste company.

The health provider in possession of H1N1 vaccine is responsible for its proper disposal. H1N1 vaccine cannot be returned and will not be accepted by either the manufacturer or the distributor. The Department of Community Health recommends the following:

- If your facility has a biomedical waste service provider, use that provider to handle all H1N1 vaccine to be discarded.
- If your facility does not have a biomedical waste service provider, you may contact:

Stericycle, Inc
2333 Waukegan Rd., Suite 200
Bannockburn, IL 60015
(866) 783-7422 or Mr. Brent
Mancuso (847) 943-6722

Avalon South
315 Bell Park Dr.
Woodstock, GA 30188
770-517-4203

Division of Public Health

M. Rony Francois, MD, MSPH, PhD, Director of Public Health and State Health Officer ♦ Phone: 404-657-2700 ♦ Fax: 404-657-2715

Stericycle and Avalon South are the only currently permitted biomedical waste facilities in the state of Georgia. If you generate less than 100 lbs. of biomedical waste per month, Georgia regulations allow that vaccine be disposed of in the city garbage system after sterilization treatment (autoclaving). For more information about Georgia solid waste regulations for vaccine disposal, see Section 2.

Section 2. Regulatory Information about Disposal of Expired Vaccines

The Georgia Environmental Protection Division, Solid Waste Management Unit (GEPD), regulates the handling, transportation, treatment and disposal of biomedical waste in Georgia under O.C.G.A. Rule 391-3-4-.15 (6). These biomedical waste regulations are summarized below:

- Biological waste which contains free liquids, including discarded live and attenuated vaccines, cannot be directly discarded into a municipal sewer system.
- Any generator of biomedical waste shall transfer custody of the waste only to a collector who is operating under authority of these regulations.
- Biomedical waste shall be delivered for storage, including intermediate transfer, and treatment only to a facility or location for which there is a valid and appropriate operating permit as set forth in these regulations.
- Biomedical waste shall be treated by one of the following methods prior to disposal at a permitted waste disposal facility:
 1. Incineration in a thermal treatment technology facility which provides complete combustion of waste to render it non-pathogenic.
 2. Decontamination by heating with steam under pressure (*autoclave*) so as to render the biomedical waste noninfectious.
- Biomedical waste treated in accordance with the provisions of Rule 391-3-4-.15 (6) – (Treatment of Biomedical waste described above) shall be properly disposed at a facility permitted under the authority of these Rules.

Under Georgia biomedical waste regulations, facilities generating less than 100 pounds per month of biomedical waste may dispose of this waste at a municipal solid waste landfill.

Additional Questions about Disposal of Expired Vaccines?

For more information about disposal of expired vaccines, contact the Georgia Environmental Protection Division Solid Waste Management Unit at 404-362-2692.