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DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
FEDERAL COVID RESPONSE
200 INDEPENDENCE AVENUE
WASHINGTON, DC 20201

SA

02 February 2021

MEMORANDUM FOR SEE DISTRIBUTION

SUBJECT: Secure disposal of vaccine vials and packaging recommendations

1. Due to the increased threat of fake or counterfeit vaccines, we convened an interagency working group of medical professionals, suppliers, and law enforcement. The working group recommends vaccine administration sites dispose of wasted COVID 19 vaccines in accordance with their jurisdiction's procedures and take appropriate steps to properly dispose of empty vaccine vials and product packaging.
2. The following additional recommended actions will further protect COVID 19 vaccine empty vials and packaging to reduce counterfeit efforts:
 - a) Action 1 (Preferred method): Treat vials and packaging similarly to medical waste by placing in red sharps container; or
 - b) Action 2: Deface all or safely crush materials so it cannot be reintroduced or reproduced. After the products are sufficiently defaced, then dispose with regular waste.
3. Vaccines are only available and administered through State authorized vaccination locations. Vaccines are currently only distributed to State, Tribal and Territorial governments as well as participating pharmacies and are only administered through State approved medical entities. Non-medical companies or private persons are not authorized to provide, sell, or administer vaccines.
 - a) Any offers related to the sale or use of COVID vaccines, not from a medical provider, should be considered suspicious and reported to the appropriate state or jurisdiction. This may include: State or local Department of Health; the US Department of Health and Human Services, Office of the Inspector General at 1-800-HHS-TIPS or www.oig.hhs.gov; or submit a tip to the Federal Bureau of Investigation to: www.tips.fbi.gov.
4. Request all parties publish the above recommended actions to their Frequently Asked Questions page and distribute through official channels.

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5. Please direct all questions on secure disposal to Scott Vantrease, Office of Inspector General, HHS at 202-539-6302.



MICHAEL C. MCCURRY
Brigadier General, U.S. Army
Director of Security and Assurance

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Department of Health and Human Services Office of the Inspector General
Federal Bureau of Investigation Intellectual Property Rights Unit
Food and Drug Administration Office of Criminal Investigations
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention COVID-19 Response Vaccine Task Force
Department of Homeland Security Homeland Security Investigations
Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency