



# Immunization Safety



Flu season is here! At this time of year we want to remind healthcare providers administering flu vaccines to practice injection safety.

Although many health practitioners are aware syringes should not be reused on multiple patients, there are still some that fail to follow this guideline. [Last year, a nurse in New Jersey put many patients at risk](#) when she reused syringes on multiple patients at an employee influenza vaccination clinic.

The nurse had been sent pre-filled syringes to give to the employees attending the event. Instead of using the pre-filled syringes, the nurse brought multiple-dose vials that she had stored for a different event. The nurse changed the needle in between each patient but used only two syringes on the 67 patients. The participants were notified of potential exposure and were encouraged to seek testing for hepatitis B, hepatitis C and HIV.

To keep participants at vaccination events safe, it is important to ensure all those who are administering the vaccines know about bloodborne pathogen risks, injection safety and vaccine storage.

## **Keep these recommendations from CDC in mind when setting up vaccination clinics:**

- Draw up vaccines at the time of administration. Do not draw up vaccines before arriving at the clinic.
- If available, try to only use manufacturer-filled syringes for large immunization clinics.
- Unused syringes should be discarded at the end of the clinic day if the syringe cap has been removed or the needle is attached.
- If drawing up doses from a multi-dose vial, pay attention to the manufacturer's label for the number of doses per multi-dose vial and do not administer more doses than are listed.

---

## **You can find more information and resources at the following links:**

- [CDC Vaccine Storage and Handling Toolkit](#)
- Offsite, temporary and satellite clinics can [pledge](#) to have safe vaccinations and use the vaccination clinic [checklist](#) as a resource
- [CDC Injection Safety](#)
- [General Recommendations on Immunization: Recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices \(ACIP\)](#)