



## **Statement on “Leftover Doses” of COVID-19 Vaccines**

January 6, 2021

First, it is great to see the public’s enthusiasm for receiving safe and effective COVID-19 vaccinations – which will protect health and help us get back to all that we love.

We want to emphasize that NACDS is urging specific federal and state actions that will allow pharmacies to vaccinate more Americans sooner. Ultimately, trusted and accessible pharmacies will be able to meet the demand for – conservatively – 100 million vaccine doses in under a month, as vaccine supplies become available.

Until then, stories about patients who are able to obtain a leftover vaccine dose because somebody did not show up for an appointment unfortunately are creating too many false hopes, and threaten to take the focus from the important work at hand.

Here are some important points to remember:

- Policies regarding leftover doses vary by jurisdiction
- There are not many leftover doses, yet pharmacies are taking appropriate actions to get shots to arms and to prevent wasting any doses
- Elevated interest in rare leftover doses can distract from important duties of pharmacy teams, including vaccinating those who are now eligible.

We encourage individuals to check first the online communications resources of their trusted pharmacies or public health department to learn more about this historic effort to get safe and effective COVID-19 vaccinations to individuals’ arms according to the schedule set by the authorities.