

# HOW DO I SAFELY USE A MULTI-DOSE VACCINE VIAL?

You vaccinate patients to protect them. Correctly using multi-dose vials keeps your patients safe from germs that can spread from contaminated vials, needles, and syringes.

**CHECK THAT YOU ARE** USING MULTI-DOSE VACCINE VIALS SAFELY **EVERY TIME.**

- ✓ **Always prepare multi-dose vial injections away from patient care spaces in a clean designated area**
- ✓ **Clean your hands** before touching the vial
- ✓ **Check the label** to make sure it is a multi-dose vaccine vial
- ✓ Check to make sure the vaccine is **not expired or “beyond use”**
- ✓ **Look and see** if the vaccine appears the way the vaccine maker tells you it should
- ✓ Use **brand-new, sterile needles and syringes** for every vaccine dose
- ✓ **Disinfect the top** part of the vial (the vial stopper) with an alcohol prep pad—**every time**
- ✓ Make sure the **top is dry** before sticking the needle in it
- ✓ When you first put a needle in, **write the date and time** on the label
- ✓ Follow the vaccine maker’s **instructions for storage**
- ✓ **Never “pool” doses** (combine partial doses from multiple vials to make one dose for a patient)

