



Department of
Health

Timeline of findings and actions to date by State of Tennessee – Shelby County Health Department COVID-19 Vaccine Mismanagement Investigation

The following outline describes events discovered during the Tennessee Department of Health's investigation of COVID-19 vaccine mismanagement by the Shelby County Health Department. All times are Central time.

Wednesday, Jan. 27 – TEMA requests 26 FEMA staff members for Memphis

Monday, Feb. 1 – TDH and Shelby County Health Department schedule strategic planning session for Feb. 5.

Tuesday, Feb. 2 – FEMA team lead onsite in Shelby County to support staffing

Wednesday, Feb. 3 – FEMA staff on site

Wednesday, Feb. 3 – Thursday, Feb. 4 – FEMA site visit including Region 4 FEMA Administrator Gracia Szczech at vaccine site

Friday, Feb. 5 – TDH and SCHD Strategic Planning Session held

Friday, Feb. 19, 10 a.m. – SCHD Director Alisa Haushalter notified TDH Chief Medical Officer Tim Jones of 1,315 (1,578*) expired doses of vaccine

Friday, Feb. 19, 7:30 p.m. – TDH/Unified Command Group team arrives onsite at SCHD

Friday, Feb. 19, 9 p.m. – TDH confirms 1,578 expired vaccine doses and counts 51,480 doses in inventory

Saturday, Feb. 20, 11 a.m. – State team departs SCHD after two-hour meeting

Sunday, Feb. 21 – Tennessee Health Commissioner Lisa Piercey requests onsite assistance from Centers for Disease Control and Prevention vaccine team

Monday, Feb. 22, 1 p.m. – Embedded TDH team arrives onsite. This team remains at SCHD.

Monday, Feb. 22 – Onsite inventory physically managed by TDH pharmacist

Monday, Feb. 22 – TDH team learns of additional 840 expired doses not disclosed by SCHD on Feb. 19

*All calculations using FDA-recommended six doses/vial for Pfizer

**Moderna product (all other references are to Pfizer product)



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Tuesday, Feb. 23 – Onsite inventory physically managed by TDH pharmacist

Tuesday, Feb. 23 – TDH team finds 64** unused doses and 12 unaccounted doses wasted after Feb. 23 vaccination event

Wednesday, Feb. 24 – Onsite inventory physically managed by TDH pharmacist

Wednesday, Feb. 24, 10 a.m. – Transfer of authority for all vaccine management assigned to City of Memphis

Wednesday, Feb. 24 – Onsite inventory moved by TDH to Regional One (Pfizer) and Poplar Healthcare (Moderna)

Wednesday, Feb. 24 – Digital data loggers and transport coolers for vaccine tracking and storage flown from Smyrna and Chattanooga to Memphis

Thursday, Feb. 25, 8 a.m. – City of Memphis begins assignment and transport of vaccine to Points of Dispensing countywide

Thursday, Feb. 25 – Purchased/installed refrigeration unit in Regional One pharmacy exclusively for vaccine storage

Thursday, Feb. 25 – Onsite inventory moved by TDH to Regional One (Pfizer) and Poplar Healthcare (Moderna)

Thursday, Feb. 25 – TDH team finds 18 unused doses wasted after vaccination event, unknown date (possibly Feb. 22)

Thursday, Feb. 25 – Shelby County Mayor Lee Harris notifies Piercey of Appling site incident of children being vaccinated on Feb. 3

Thursday, Feb. 25 – Harris notifies Piercey of Pipkin site incident of potential vaccine theft on Feb. 3

Thursday, Feb. 25 – TDH general counsel notifies Federal Bureau of Investigation regarding potential theft

Sunday, Feb. 28 – A three-person team from the CDC is deployed to SCHD

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Monday, Mar. 1 – Friday, Mar. 12 – Detailed analysis of all available data sources is conducted to ensure vaccine stability for approximately 54,700 vaccinations given at SCHED sites from Dec. 28, 2020 through Feb. 24, 2021

Wednesday, Mar. 3 – Piercey and TDH Vaccine-Preventable Diseases and Immunization Program Medical Director Michelle Fiscus travel to Atlanta, Ga. to meet with top CDC officials including Director of the National Center for Immunization and Respiratory Diseases Director Nancy Messonnier

Monday, Mar. 15 – CDC issues report confirming vaccine stability of all doses administered by SCHED Dec. 28 – Feb. 24

Ongoing – CDC Immunization Services Division work with SCHED on all vaccine management practices, including the Vaccines for Children program.

TBD – TDH final report/after-action review to be presented to Mayor Harris and SCHED leadership

Timeline of notable events of mismanagement

February 3	Expiration of 1,056 doses
February 3	Two children inappropriately vaccinated at Appling site; no report to state or federal partners
February 3	Volunteer suspected of stealing multiple doses at Pipkin site; no report to state or federal partners or authorities
February 9	Expiration of 198 doses
February 10	Expiration of 72 doses
February 12	Expiration of 84 doses
February 14	Expiration of 90 doses
Unknown date	Expiration of 78 doses
February 15	Expiration of 840 doses
Unknown date	Wastage of 18 unused doses
February 23	Wastage of 64 (plus 12) unused doses

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