

Moderna COVID-19 Vaccine

Transporting Vaccine for Vaccination Clinics Held at Satellite, Temporary, or Off-Site Locations



» Procedure

Follow storage and handling best practices outlined in CDC's *Vaccine Storage and Handling Toolkit* to maintain the cold chain when packing and transporting vaccine.

CDC recommends transporting Moderna COVID-19 vaccine at frozen or refrigerated temperature using a portable freezer or refrigerator unit or a container/packout qualified to maintain the recommended temperatures.

To monitor vaccine temperatures, use a digital data logger with a buffered temperature probe that displays current, minimum, and maximum temperatures.

Upon arrival at clinic, place vaccine in an on-site storage unit that maintains recommended temperatures, if available. If there is no storage unit available, keep the vaccine in the transport container, maintaining recommended temperatures.

Temperature monitoring: Record time and min/max temperatures:

- At the start of transport
- Whenever the transport container is opened
- When transport concludes



» General Information

- Vaccine vials may be transported more than once.
- Transport thawed vaccine at refrigerated temperatures. Once thawed, vaccine should not be refrozen.
- Do NOT use dry ice when transporting vaccine.
- Both punctured and unpunctured vials may be transported.

Frozen transport: Between -50°C and -15°C (-58°F and 5°F)

- Only unpunctured vials may be transported frozen.
- Frozen transport is preferred if vaccine must be transported.
 - Do not freeze thawed vaccine.

Refrigerated transport: Between 2°C and 8°C (36°F and 46°F) for up to 12 total hours

- **Unpunctured vials:** Vaccine may be stored at refrigerated temperatures for up to 30 days.
 - Time used for transport counts as part of the 30-day limit.
- **Punctured vials:** Punctured vials may be transported at refrigerated temperatures
 - Once punctured, the vaccine must be used within 12 hours.
 - Time used for transport counts as part of the 12-hour time limit.

Best Practices for Transporting mRNA Vaccines

- Protect vaccines as much as possible from drops, shocks, and vibration.
- To minimize movement, transport vials in the carton whenever possible.
- If individual vials must be transported:
 - Place vials with padding material like bubble wrap or similar materials to prevent breaking.
 - Secure storage containers during transport.
 - Keep vaccine vials upright whenever possible.

- CDC recommends transporting vaccine in vials. However, there may be instances when the only option is to transport predrawn vaccine in a syringe. U.S. Pharmacopeia includes guidance for transporting predrawn vaccine in syringes in the USP COVID-19 Vaccine Toolkit: Operational Considerations for Healthcare Practitioners.
- The 12-hour transport time frame is cumulative. Monitor and record all transport time to ensure this time frame is not exceeded.
 - Example: If the vaccine is transported for 1 hour to a clinic and for 1 hour back to the primary storage unit, the returned vials can be transported for an additional 10 hours.
 - Use CDC's beyond-use date (BUD) labels to track BOTH the refrigerator storage and transportation time frames.
- Take care that vaccine is not refrozen during transport.

CDC's Transport Temperature Log <https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/covid-19/downloads/transport-temperature-log.pdf>

CDC's beyond-use date (BUD) labels <https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/covid-19/info-by-product/moderna/downloads/bud-tracking-labels.pdf>

USP COVID-19 Vaccine Toolkit: Operational Considerations for Healthcare Practitioners <https://www.usp.org/covid-19/vaccine-handling-toolkit>