Modernas 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.
- 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.

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’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]