The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) extended the expiration date for Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine from 12 to 18 months from manufacturer date. Before discarding any vaccine, providers should check the expiration date using Pfizer-BioNTech’s expiration date tool at [Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Lot Expiry](cvdvaccine.com).

**NOTE:** This expiration date extension applies to both vaccine vials currently stored at ultra-cold temperatures (-90°C and -60°C [-130°F and -76°F]) or refrigerated temperatures (2°C and 8°C [36°F and 46°F])—even if these vials were moved to refrigerated temperatures prior to the extension.

## Example

Vaccine (original expiration date = 12/20/2022) was removed from ultra-cold storage and placed in a refrigerator on 12/4/2022. Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine stored in a refrigerator must be used within 10 weeks (beyond-use date [BUD]). Based on the date the vaccine was placed in the refrigerator, the vaccine's BUD is 2/12/2023. Without the expiration date extension, this vaccine could only be used up to the expiration date (12/20/2022)–not the full 10 weeks. **HOWEVER, with this extension, the expiration date is now AFTER the BUD. The vaccine can be used for the full 10 weeks.**

### Additional resources

- [Storing and Handling Vaccines: Expiration Date, Beyond-Use Date, and Beyond-Use Time](https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/shots-providers/brand-guide.html)
- [Vaccines Storage and Handling Toolkit | CDC](https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/shots-providers/toolkit.html)
- [Storage and Handling of Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccines | CDC](https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/shots-providers/toolkit/index.html)