

FORMULATION: 5 Through 11 Years of Age
Pfizer-BioNTech 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, COVID-19 Vaccine Addendum* (<https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/hcp/admin/storage/toolkit/storage-handling-toolkit.pdf>), to maintain the cold chain when packing and transporting vaccine.

Transport Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine with a temperature monitoring device in a:

- Portable ultra-cold freezer unit
- Portable refrigerator unit
- Container/packout qualified to maintain the recommended temperatures

Upon arrival at the 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 minimum/maximum temperatures:

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

General Information

- Transport equal amounts of vaccines, diluents, and ancillary supplies (including vaccination record cards and personal protective equipment).
- **ONLY** unpunctured vials may be transported.
 - Unpunctured vaccine vials may be transported more than once.
- Transport thawed vaccine at refrigerated temperatures.
 - Individual vials or partially filled trays must be transported at refrigerated temperatures.
 - Vaccine stored at refrigerated temperatures should not be refrozen.
- Do **NOT** transport punctured vials or pre-drawn syringes

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, undiluted vials must be transported:
 - Place vials with padding materials like bubble wrap or similar materials to prevent breaking.
 - Secure storage containers during transport.
 - Keep vaccine vials upright whenever possible.
 - Protect from light.

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Temperatures and Transport Container	Temperature Monitoring Device	Beyond-Use Time/Date	Additional Considerations
Ultra-cold transport: Between -90°C and -60°C (-130°F and -76°F) in a portable ultra-cold freezer or qualified container/packout	Digital data logger (DDL) with a probe designed to measure ultra-cold temperatures	Vaccine may be stored in an ultra-cold freezer until the expiration date.	Only full trays of vaccine may be transported at ultra-cold temperatures.
Refrigerated transport: Between 2°C and 8°C (36°F and 46°F) in a portable refrigerator or qualified container/packout	DDL with a buffered temperature probe that displays current, minimum, and maximum temperatures	Unpunctured vials only: Vaccine may be stored at refrigerated temperatures for up to 10 weeks. Vials may be transported more than once.	Any time used for transport counts against the 10 week time limit for storage at these temperatures. Punctured, mixed vials or predrawn syringes CANNOT be transported.

Resources:

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/pfizer/downloads/bud-tracking-labels.pdf>

USP COVID-19 Vaccine Toolkit: Operational Considerations for Healthcare Practitioners

<https://www.usp.org/covid-19/vaccine-handling-toolkit>