

Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine

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



Transporting Vaccine

When packing and transporting vaccine, follow storage and handling best practices in [CDC's Vaccine Storage and Handling Toolkit](#).

All Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine products in **multidose or single-dose vials** can be transported at ultracold or refrigerated temperatures.

Transport vaccine using a portable ultra-cold freezer, refrigerator, or a container qualified to maintain appropriate temperatures.

Each container should have a temperature monitoring device. Use a digital data logger that displays minimum and maximum (min/max) temperatures.

Use a Transport Temperature Log to record min/max temperature:

- At the start of transport
- Whenever the storage container is opened
- At the end of transport

Time used for transport and at the clinic site counts as part of any beyond-use timeframes (see table).

Place transport container with vaccine in the passenger compartment of the vehicle only (never in the trunk).

At the Clinic Site

Place vaccine in an on-site storage unit that maintains appropriate temperatures, if available.

If no storage unit is available, keep the vaccine in the transport container to maintain the appropriate temperatures.

Ensure there is an adequate number of:

- Storage containers to maintain proper storage temperature for vaccine in the preparation area and vaccine administration stations.
- Administration supplies – diluent (if needed), needles, syringes, etc. for the number of expected recipients.

Only transport/prepare the amount of vaccine needed. Ensure vaccine that is prepared first is administered first.

Best practices for transporting mRNA vaccines

- Transport vials in the tray/carton whenever possible.
- Protect vials as much as possible from drops, shocks, and vibration.
 - Secure storage containers during transport.
- Protect from light. Avoid exposure to direct sunlight and ultraviolet light.
- If individual vials must be transported:
 - Place vials with padding materials like bubble wrap or similar materials to prevent breaking.
 - Keep vaccine vials upright whenever possible.
- Label the container, vials, and/or predrawn syringes appropriately including beyond-use date/time.
 - CDC recommends transporting vaccine in vials.
- If the only option is to transport vaccine in a predrawn syringe, see additional guidance*

* See guidance for labeling predrawn syringes in U.S. Pharmacopeia [COVID-19 Vaccine Handling Toolkit \(usp.org\)](#)

Resources

[CDC's Vaccine Storage and Handling Toolkit](#)

[CDC's Pfizer COVID-19 Vaccine clinical materials](#)

[Pfizer-BioNTech Manufacturer Information](#)

[USP COVID-19 Vaccine Toolkit: Operational Considerations for Healthcare Practitioners](#)


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Summary Table

Information included in the table applies to all Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine products.

Transport Equipment*	Temperature Range	Applicable Beyond-Use Date/Time		Additional Considerations
		Unpunctured vials	Punctured vials	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Portable ultra-cold freezer or qualified container/ packout 2. Digital data logger (DDL) with a probe designed to measure ultracold temperatures 3. Transport temperature log 	<p>Between: -90°C and -60°C (-130°F and -76°F)</p>	Up to the expiration date	 DO NOT store or transport at these temperatures	Only full trays of unpunctured vials may be transported at ultra-cold temperatures.
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Portable refrigerator or qualified container/ packout 2. Digital data logger (DDL) with a probe designed to measure ultracold temperatures 3. Transport temperature log 	<p>Between: 2°C and 8°C (36°F and 46°F) for up to 10 weeks</p>	10 weeks	CDC does not recommend transporting punctured vials or predrawn syringes [†]	Anytime used for transport counts against the 10-week or 12-hour beyond-use time limit.
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Qualified container/ packout 2. Digital data logger (DDL) with a probe capable of measuring frozen temperatures 3. Transport temperature log 	<p>Between: 8°C and 25°C (46°F and 77°F)</p>	12 hours		Anytime used for transport counts against the 12-hour beyond-use time limit. Avoid exposure to direct sunlight or ultraviolet light.

* Vaccine may NOT be redistributed/transported in the shipping container. Exception: Thermal shipping containers delivered to Alaska, Hawaii, and the US-affiliated Pacific Islands may be used. Refer to the manufacturer for more detailed guidance: www.cvdvaccine-us.com

† CDC recommends transporting vaccine in unpunctured vials. However, there may be instances when the only option is to transport vaccine in a punctured vial or a predrawn syringe. Punctured vials must be used within 12 hours. See guidance for transporting punctured vials or predrawn syringes in U.S. Pharmacopeia [COVID-19 Vaccine Handling Guides: Operational Considerations for Healthcare Providers](#)