

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:

- Thermal shipping container
- Portable ultra-cold freezer unit
- Portable 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).
- 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.
- Both punctured and unpunctured vials may be transported. Transport punctured vials at refrigerated temperatures.
- 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 (<https://www.usp.org/covid-19/vaccine-handling-toolkit>).

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 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 the thermal shipping container, portable ultra-cold freezer, or qualified container/packout	Thermal shipping container: Controlant temperature monitoring device	Unpunctured vials only: Vaccine may be stored in the thermal shipping container for up to 30 days.	Any time used for transport counts against the 30-day limit for storage in the thermal shipping container.
	Portable ultra-cold freezer or qualified container: 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.
Frozen transport: Between 25°C and -15°C (-13°F to 5°F) in a portable freezer 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 frozen temperatures for up to 2 weeks.	Any time used for transport counts against the 2-week limit for storage at these temperatures. Frozen vials may be returned one time to ultra-cold storage conditions between -90°C and -60°C (-130°F and -76°F).
Refrigerated transport: Between 2°C and 8°C (36°F and 46°F) for up to 12 total hours in a portable refrigerator or qualified container/packout	DDL with a buffered temperature probe that displays current, minimum, and maximum temperatures	Unpunctured vials: Vaccine may be stored at refrigerated temperatures for up to 1 month (31 days).	Any time used for transport counts against the 31-day time limit for storage at these temperatures.
		Punctured vials: Once punctured, the vaccine must be mixed with diluent and used within 6 hours.	Any time used for transport counts against the 6-hour beyond-use time limit.

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>