

Moderna COVID-19 Vaccine

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



General Information

Follow storage and handling best practices outlined in CDC's Vaccine Storage and Handling Toolkit to maintain the cold chain when packing, transporting and storing vaccine for satellite, temporary off-site clinics.

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.

- Both punctured and unpunctured vials may be transported. Vaccine vials may be transported more than once.
- Transport thawed vaccine at refrigerated temperatures. Once thawed, vaccine cannot be refrozen.
- Do NOT use dry ice when transporting vaccine.
- Time used for transport counts as part of any beyond-use timeframes.

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.



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.

- Ensure vaccine, including predrawn syringes, is always stored at the appropriate temperatures and conditions.

Store **unpunctured** vials between:

- -50°C and -15°C (-58°F and 5°F)
- 2°C and 8°C (36°F and 46°F) for up to 30 days
- 8° to 25°C (46° to 77°F) for a total of 24 hours.

Protect from light.

Store **punctured vials and predrawn syringes** between 2° to 25°C (36° to 77°F).

Use vaccine within 12 hours after the first puncture.

Discard any remaining vaccine in vials or predrawn syringes after 12 hours.

- Only prepare the amount of vaccine needed and ensure vaccine that is prepared first is administered first.
- Ensure there is an adequate number of storage containers to maintain proper storage temperature for vaccine in the preparation area and vaccine administration stations. To monitor vaccine temperatures, use a digital data logger with a buffered temperature probe that displays current, minimum, and maximum temperatures.

Temperature monitoring

Record time and min/max temperatures:

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

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

USP COVID-19 Vaccine Toolkit: Operational Considerations for Healthcare Practitioners <https://www.usp.org/covid-19/vaccine-handling-toolkit>