

Guide to COVID-19 Vaccine Redistribution, Repositioning, Transfer & Transport

Scenario	Event Frequency	Ownership Transfer	Example	Sender *	Receiver **	Approver †	Report †	Proposed Resources
Redistribution	Receive vaccines into central depot then routinely divide to distribute to other sites. Confirm with LHD that receiving locations are approved providers.							
	Routine	Yes	Hub and Spoke model	Health system (multi-county or single)	Affiliated locations	CDPH	Yes	Redistribution: Before You Apply CDC Redistribution Agreement Redistribution VM Plan Redistributing Vaccines COVID-19 Vaccine Transport Log
				Health system (multi-county or single)	Non-affiliated locations	CDPH	Yes	Same
				LHD	Small providers & hospitals	CDPH	Yes	Same
				LHD	LHD	CDPH	Yes	Same
				Large hospital	Small providers & hospitals	CDPH	Yes	Same
				3 rd -party cold storage vendor	Other sites	CDPH	Yes	Same
Repositioning	Transport vaccines to an event; unused doses returned to the original facility at the end of the day.							
	As needed	No	POD clinic, mobile clinic	Health system	N/A	N/A	No	Repositioning for Off-Site Clinics COVID-19 Vaccine Transport Log
				LHD	N/A	N/A	No	Same
				Provider	N/A	N/A	No	Same
Transfer	Transport due to emergency or unplanned event. Confirm with LHD that receiving locations are approved providers.							
	Unplanned	Yes	Excess supply, imminent expiration	Health system	Other locations	N/A	Yes	Transferring Vaccines COVID-19 Vaccine Transport Log
			Excess supply, imminent expiration	LHD	Small providers, hospitals, LHDs	N/A	Yes	Same
			Excess supply, imminent expiration	Provider	Provider, LHDs	N/A	Yes	Same

* Redistributing entity must sign COVID-19 Vaccine Redistribution Agreement

** Receiving locations must be approved COVID-19 vaccination providers (sign Section B, COVID-19 Vaccination Provider Profile form)

† CDPH will report redistribution and transfer events to LHDs at regular intervals.

Beyond Use/Expiration Dates by Transport Option

Transport vaccine using these transport methods. Transport time counts against any Beyond-Use Date (BUD) limits. Label accordingly.

Vaccine Product	Transport Method	Destination Storage Unit	Storage & Handling Details for Unpunctured Vials
Pfizer 12+ Years	Refrigerated (2°C–8°C)	Refrigerator (2°C–8°C)	For frozen doses transferred to refrigerated temperatures, label vaccines with BUD of 31 days max from date of transfer to refrigerated temperatures.
	Frozen (-25 to -15°C) *	Freezer (-25 to -15°C) *	Store at frozen temperatures for up to two weeks ; label vaccines with BUD of two weeks from date of transfer to freezer. Frozen vials may be returned 1 time to recommended storage condition of -90°C to -60°C (-130°F to -76°F).
	Original thermal shipper	Refrigerator (2°C–8°C)	Limit shipper openings to 2/day for about 3 minutes/opening . For frozen doses transferred to refrigerated temperatures, label vaccines with BUD of 31 days max from date of transfer.
	Original thermal shipper	Transport all doses and leave in original shipper	Store in thermal shippers for up to 30 days from delivery (if dry ice is recharged within 24 hours of receipt and every 5 days after initial icing). If entire shipper is redistributed, label vaccines with BUD of remaining number of days (out of 30) doses may be stored in the shipper.
	Original thermal shipper	ULT freezer -90°C and -60°C	Store vaccine till expiration date on the vials.
	ULT transporter ** -90°C and -60°C	ULT freezer -90°C and -60°C	Store vaccine till expiration date on the vials.
Pfizer 5-11 Years	Refrigerated (2°C–8°C)	Refrigerator (2°C–8°C)	Store vaccine at refrigerated temperatures for up to 10 weeks . Vaccine may be transported more than once.
	ULT transporter ** -90°C and -60°C	ULT freezer -90°C and -60°C	Store vaccine at ultra-cold temperatures for up to 6 months from manufacture date on vial or carton.
Moderna	Frozen -50° to -15°C *	Freezer -50° to -15°C *	Frozen transport is preferred; store vaccine till expiration . To find expiration date, scan QR code on vial or carton, or look up expiration dates online .
	Refrigerated (2°C–8°C)	Refrigerator (2°C–8°C)	May transport more than once for up to 12 hours total; label vaccines with BUD of up to 30 days from date first transferred to refrigerated temperatures.
Janssen	Refrigerated (2°C–8°C)	Refrigerator (2°C–8°C)	Store doses for 3 months . To find expiration date, scan QR code on outer carton, look up online , or call 800-565-4008.

* Use of dry ice may subject vials to temperatures colder than -50°C (-58°F).

** CDC does not recommend transporting ultra-frozen vaccine; if necessary, use a portable ULT freezer that can maintain a temperature of -80° C.

Vaccine Transport

Transport vaccine following guidelines in CDC’s [S&H Toolkit](#) or [Transporting Pfizer Pediatric \(5-11 Years\) Vaccine](#). Use a data logger appropriate to the transport temperatures. Use [Vaccine Transport Log](#) to track vaccine inventory and chain of custody. Total transport time alone, or transport plus clinic workday, should be a maximum of 8 hours. Consider using the [Transport Time Tracker](#). (See [Transporting Vaccines](#) for details.)