Redistributing Vaccines

California COVID-19 Vaccination Program

Vaccines should be direct shipped to vaccination settings to minimize breaks in the cold chain. However, there may be circumstances where COVID-19 vaccines need to be redistributed routinely to additional clinic locations (e.g., for orders smaller than the minimum order size, or for large organizations whose vaccines are shipped to a central depot and require redistribution). Upon approval from the California Department of Public Health (CDPH), follow these instructions to routinely redistribute vaccines.

Key Points

- Sender assumes full responsibility for ensuring receiving provider location is covered by a COVID-19 provider agreement and adheres to its requirements
- Coordinate with receiving locations to redistribute only what is needed to minimize waste
- Sender must ensure validated cold-chain procedures are in place in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions and guidance in CDC’s Vaccine Storage & Handling Toolkit
- Sender must report redistribution events to CDPH within 24 hours of vaccine delivery; report must indicate if vaccines were exposed to a temperature excursion during transport
- Sender and receiving location must ensure updated inventory counts are reflected in their daily reporting to VaccineFinder
- Vaccines may only be redistributed from the primary shipping location to secondary sites once
- Punctured multi-dose vials may not be redistributed to another provider location or across state lines
- Keep all documents for three years
- Refer to your Redistribution Vaccine Management Plan and CDC’s Redistribution Agreement for complete list of requirements
**Transport Options**

Vaccine products may be transported using the following transport methods. Beyond Use Dates may be reduced by storage method. Plan accordingly to minimize waste.

**IMPORTANT:** Once Pfizer vials are removed from trays, store or transport at refrigerated temperatures or thaw for use; do not return to frozen storage.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Vaccine Product</th>
<th>Transport Method</th>
<th>Destination Storage Unit</th>
<th>Storage &amp; Handling Details for Unpunctured Vials</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pfizer</td>
<td>Refrigerated (2°C–8°C)</td>
<td>Refrigerator</td>
<td>Frozen doses moved to refrigerated temperatures have reduced Beyond Use Date. Label vaccines with Beyond Use Date of <strong>1 month/31 days max</strong> from date first transferred to refrigerated temperatures.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Frozen (-25 to -15°C)</td>
<td>Freezer</td>
<td></td>
<td>Vaccines may be stored or transported at frozen temperatures for a period of <strong>two weeks</strong>; frozen vials may be returned one time to the recommended storage condition of -80°C to -60°C (-112°F to -76°F); vials transported at frozen temperatures can either be returned to -80°C to -60°C and used by the expiration date, or maintained at frozen temperatures and used within two weeks (label vaccines with Beyond Use Date of two weeks from date first transferred to freezer temperatures). (2/25/21)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Original thermal shipper</td>
<td>Refrigerator</td>
<td></td>
<td>For thermal shippers, limit openings to 2/day for about 3 minutes per opening. Frozen doses moved to refrigerated temperatures have reduced Beyond Use Date. Label vaccines with Beyond Use Date of <strong>1 month/31 days max</strong> from date first transferred to refrigerated temperatures.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Original thermal shipper</td>
<td>All doses transported and will remain in original Pfizer thermal shipper</td>
<td></td>
<td>Doses may be stored in thermal shippers for up to <strong>30 days from delivery</strong> (if dry ice is recharged within <strong>24 hours</strong> of receipt and every <strong>5 days after initial icing</strong>). If entire shipper is redistributed, label vaccines with Beyond Use Date of the remaining number of days (out of 30) doses may be stored in the shipper.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Original thermal shipper</td>
<td>ULT freezer</td>
<td></td>
<td>Doses stored <strong>till expiration</strong>. Expiration dates are on the vials.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ULT transporter *</td>
<td>ULT freezer</td>
<td></td>
<td>Doses stored <strong>till expiration</strong>. Expiration dates are on the vials.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Moderna</td>
<td>Frozen (-25 to -15°C)</td>
<td>Freezer</td>
<td>Frozen transport (25°C to -15°C; -13°F to 5°F) is preferred; doses may be stored <strong>till expiration</strong>. Scan QR code for expiration date.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Refrigerated (2°C–8°C)</td>
<td>Refrigerator</td>
<td></td>
<td>Refrigerated transport (2° to 8°C; 36° to 46°F) more than once for up to 12 hours total; use Beyond Use Date labels to track reduced shelf life of up to <strong>30 days</strong> from date first transferred to refrigerated temperatures.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Janssen</td>
<td>Refrigerated (2°C–8°C)</td>
<td>Refrigerator</td>
<td>Doses stored for <strong>3 months</strong>. Scan QR code for expiration date.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* While CDC does not recommend transporting ultra-frozen vaccine, if necessary, this vaccine may be transported in a portable ultra-cold freezer that can maintain a temperature of -80° C.
Transport Checklist

Vaccines must be transported following product-specific guidelines in CDC’s Vaccine Storage & Handling Toolkit COVID-19 Addendum or Transporting Janssen Vaccine. Key points:

- Vaccines must be transported in a stable transport container
- Transport at the appropriate temperature for vaccine products
- Monitor temperatures with a digital data logger when transporting vaccine
- Record time and min/max temperature at the beginning of transport
- Transport equal amounts of vaccines, diluents, and ancillary supplies (including vaccination record cards and PPE)
- Upon arrival at the destination, record time and min/max temperatures
- Transport vaccine in vials; there may be instances requiring transport of pre-drawn syringes
- Do not transport partially used vials from one provider to another, or across state lines
- Do not refreeze vaccine
- Do not use dry ice to transport vaccine (exception for original Pfizer thermal shippers)

Redistribution of Pfizer Vaccine Doses Using Thermal Shippers

Pfizer thermal shippers maintain ULT temperatures if openings are limited to 2/day for about 3 minutes/opening. Deliveries may need to be scheduled over multiple days depending on the number of receiving locations. Plan redistribution accordingly.

This is a site that leverages either an ultra-low-temperature freezer (ULTF) for storage or Pfizer’s thermal shipper to redistribute vaccine to additional locations. The ULTF has a higher degree of flexibility in shipment size and time intervals than the Thermal Shipper. It also offers the least amount of complexity for handlers as they can store without the need for dry ice.

- The hub-and-spoke model offers the option for hubs to distribute shipments based on fluctuating vaccination needs
- Redistribution logistics are a key factor in redistribution to local sites (e.g., redistribution transport containers)
- Hub sites will need to account for dividing up the ancillary supplies kit, which is shipped separately from Pfizer’s thermal shipper

Examples:

- Large Health System Redistributing with ULTF Hubs - Closed to Broader Community Vaccination
- Urban Medium Health System Redistributing with ULTF Hubs - Closed to Community Vaccination
• Temporary Site with a Fridge Receiving Redistributed Vaccine from a Local ULTF Hub – Open to Broader Community Vaccination

• Urban ULTF Hub Redistributing Vaccine for Long-term Care Staff with a Strike Team – Closed to Broader Community Vaccination

• Rural Thermal Shipper Site Redistributing Vaccine for Healthcare Workers at Small Clinics with a Strike Team – Closed to Broader Community Vaccination

**Capacity Considerations**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Key Planning Inputs</th>
<th>Input Considerations</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Target Population Size</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scheduling Strategy</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Primary Storage Option</td>
<td>ULTF or Thermal Shipper</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of Full-Time Immunizers</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reconstitution Strategy</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vaccine Recipients per hour (per immunizer)</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Expected Vaccine Recipients Served Per Day</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of Vials Needed Per Day</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hours of Operation</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Days of the Week in Operation</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Resources**

Resources will be posted to EZIZ’s [COVID-19 Vaccine Management Resources](#) as they become available.

- CDC’s [Vaccine Storage & Handling Toolkit](#) & Addendum
- [Vaccine Transport Log](#)
- [Pfizer Beyond Use Date (BUD) Tracking Label (Refrigerator)](#)
- [Pfizer Vaccine Storage and Handling Label](#)
- [Moderna Beyond Use Date (BUD) Tracking Label (Refrigerator)](#)
- [Moderna Vaccine Storage and Handling Labels](#)
- [Transporting Janssen Vaccine](#)
- [Janssen Vaccine Storage and Handling Labels](#)
Instructions

Once CDPH has granted authorization to redistribute vaccines, follow these instructions to routinely redistribute vaccines to another enrolled and approved COVID-19 provider locations.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Step</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>Contact your local health department’s Immunization Coordinator to confirm receiving location is an enrolled and approved COVID-19 vaccination provider. (First time only.)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| 2.   | Contact receiving location to confirm they can store and use the doses before expiration.  
  • Notify receiver that they will receive a confirmation of transfer and must accept the transfer in myCAvax. |
| 3.   | Determine how many vaccine vials will be redistributed for each receiving location. |
| 4.   | Record Beyond Use Dates (reduced expiration dates) or expiration dates on the Vaccine Transport Log so receiving location will know when doses must be properly disposed.  
  • See Transport Options table above to determine BUD or expiration dates; see Resources for product-specific labels. |
| 5.   | Follow your organization’s protocols for packing and transporting vaccines as recorded in your Redistribution Vaccine Management Plan. |

If Pfizer thermal shipper is redistributed and doses will remain in original shipper

• Complete the Vaccine Transport Log including temperatures prior to transport; include last re-ice date so receiving location will know when to recharge dry ice.  
• Drive (don’t ship) vaccines with transport log to the destination location.  
• Open the windows on your vehicle while transporting dry ice for ventilation.  
• Place vaccines in the main compartment—not in the trunk.  

If packing/transporting vaccines in transport container

• Follow guidance in CDC’s [Vaccine Storage and Handling Toolkit](https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/storage.html).  
• If redistributing vials to multiple sites, pack separate containers to minimize openings.  
• Complete as much of the transport log(s) as you can.  
• Set up the data logger(s).

Remove vaccines from storage unit and pack for transport.

• Remove vials quickly but carefully. (For transfers from Pfizer thermal shipper, limit opening to about 3 minutes. Use a timer.)
- Complete the Vaccine Transport Log including temperatures prior to transport. *(Vaccine may have QR code to identify lot numbers and expiration dates.)*
- Ensure the data logger is set up and recording temperatures.
- Insert transport log into transport container before sealing.
- Drive (don’t ship) vaccines to the destination location.
- Ideally, limit total transport time to a maximum of 8 hours.

| 6. | Transport equal amounts of vaccines, diluents, and ancillary supplies (including vaccination record cards and PPE) for each receiving location. |
| 7. | Contact the receiving location to confirm delivery and ensure doses were stored properly.  
  - Confirm that vaccines were not exposed to out-of-range temperatures (or any temperature excursion was reported).  
  - Confirm location understands they must accept the redistribution in myCAvax and updated inventory must be reported to Vaccine Finder. |
| 8. | Sender must login to myCAvax and click on **Vaccine Inventory** to report the redistribution to CDPH within 24 hours of vaccine delivery to receiving location. *(Use the Transfer/Redistribution button.)*  
  - The receiving location will receive an email notification of the redistribution and must login to myCAvax and click on **Vaccine Inventory** to report receipt of the vaccines. *(Use the Transfer/Redistribution button.)* |
| 9. | Sending and receiving locations must ensure updated inventory counts are reflected in their daily reporting to VaccineFinder’s [COVID Locating Health](https://www.covidlocatinghealth.com) provider portal. |