# 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
- Refer to your Redistribution Vaccine Management Plan and CDC's Redistribution Agreement for complete list of requirements
- Keep all documents for three years

## Vaccine Transport

Vaccines must be transported following the guidelines in CDC's Vaccine Storage & Handling Toolkit using appropriate packing materials that provide the maximum protection. Temperatures must be monitored using a digital data logger appropriate to the transport temperatures for the vaccine. Use the Vaccine Transport Log to track vaccine inventory, temperatures before departure and upon arrival, and chain of custody. Total transport time alone, or transport plus clinic workday, should be a maximum of 8 hours. (See Transporting Vaccines for details.)

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

| 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. |

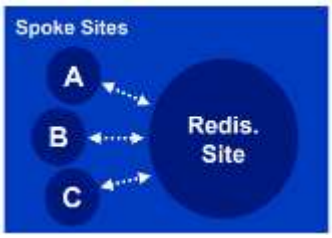
* Use of dry ice may subject vials to temperatures colder than -50°C (-58°F).
** CDC does not recommend transporting ultra-frozen vaccine; if necessary, use a portable ULT freezer that can maintain a temperature of -80° C.

# Redistribution of Pfizer (12+ Years) Product Using Thermal Shippers

Thermal shippers maintain ULT temperatures if openings are limited to 2/day for about 3 min/opening. May need to schedule deliveries over multiple days depending on the number of receiving locations.

**Hub-and-Spoke Model:** This is a site that leverages either an ultra-low-temperature freezer for storage or Pfizer's thermal shipper to redistribute vaccine to additional locations. This freezer 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.

- 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 divide up ancillary supplies kit, which is shipped separately from vaccine




*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
- Urban ULTF Hub Redistributing Vaccine for Long-term Care Staff with a Strike Team
- Rural Site Redistributing Vaccine for Healthcare Workers at Small Clinics with a Strike Team

| Key Planning Inputs | | Input Considerations |
|---|---|---|
| Target Population Size | | |
| Scheduling Strategy | | Appointments or some sort of scheduling will be key for this archetype to accurately forecast redistribution frequency and vial amounts |
| Primary Storage Option | **ULTF or Thermal Shipper** | Only full vial trays can be shipped from one ULTF to another ULTF. If individual vials are redistributed, they must do so at 2 to 8˚ C and then stored at that same temperature when received. |
| Number of Full-time Immunizers | | Dependent on expected vaccine recipient throughput and availability of trained staff |
| Reconstitution Strategy | | Depending on the number of immunizers on staff, may need to reconstitute in batches with nurse support or each immunizer could be responsible for their own reconstitution |
| Vaccine Recipients per hour (per immunizer) | **6** | Estimate 6 vaccine recipients per hour (per immunizer) (~10 min per vaccine recipient) but may vary based on waiting room capacity, nurse support for preparing the vaccine vs. another HCP administering, etc. |
| Expected Vaccine Recipients Served Per Day | | Vaccine recipients per hour per immunizer *multiplied by* the Number of Full-time Immunizers *multiplied by* the Hours of Operation |
| Number of Vials Needed Per Day | | Each vial contains 5 doses: Expected Vaccine Recipients Served Per Day *divided by* 5 |
| Hours of Operation | | |
| Days of the Week in Operation | | |

## Resources

- CDC's Vaccine Storage & Handling Toolkit & Addendum
- Transporting Vaccines
- Vaccine Transport Log & Transport Time Tracker
- Storage & Handling Labels: Pfizer 5-11 Years | 12+ Years
- Beyond-Use Date (BUD) Tracking Labels: Pfizer 5-11 Years | 12+ Years
- Moderna Vaccine Storage and Handling Labels
- Moderna Beyond Use Date (BUD) Tracking Label (Refrigerator)
- 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.

| Step | Description |
|---|---|
| 1. | Contact your local health department's Immunization Coordinator to confirm receiving location is an enrolled and approved COVID-19 vaccination provider. (First time only.) |
| 2. | Contact receiving location to confirm they can store and use the doses before expiration.<br>• Notify receiver they must accept the redistribution 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. |
| 5. | Follow your organization's protocols for packing and transporting vaccines as recorded in your Redistribution Vaccine Management Plan.<br>• ***Pfizer-BioNTech 12+ Years***: Print and insert Letter to HCPs in shipper/transport container.<br>**If Pfizer 12+ Years thermal shipper is redistributed and doses will remain in original shipper**<br>• 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.<br>• Drive (don't ship) vaccines with transport log to the destination location.<br>• Open the windows on your vehicle while transporting dry ice for ventilation.<br>• Place vaccines in the main compartment—not in the trunk.<br>**If packing/transporting vaccines in transport container** |

| | |
|---|---|
| | • Follow guidance in CDC's Vaccine Storage and Handling Toolkit.<br>• If redistributing vials to multiple sites, pack separate containers to minimize openings.<br>• Complete as much of the transport log as you can and set up the data logger(s).<br><br>Remove vaccines from storage unit and pack for transport.<br><br>• Remove vials quickly but carefully. (Limit opening of **Pfizer 12+ Years** thermal shippers to about 3 minutes. Use a timer.)<br>• Complete the Vaccine Transport Log including temperatures prior to transport.<br>• Ensure the data logger is set up and recording temperatures.<br>• Insert transport log into transport container before sealing.<br>• Drive (don't ship) vaccines to the destination location.<br>• 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. | Receiving location must store vaccine upon delivery.<br><br>• Apply beyond-use tracking labels if applicable (see Beyond Use/Expiration Dates by Transport Option table) using dates provided on the transport log.<br>• Receiving location will receive an email notification of the redistribution; login to myCAvax and click on **Vaccine Inventory** to report receipt of the redistributed vaccines.<br>• **Pfizer-BioNTech 12+ Years:** Receiver should scan QR code to determine if lots received fall under EUA or FDA-approved COMIRNATY vaccine; see letter for HCPs in shipper/container. |
| 8. | Sender contacts the receiving location to confirm delivery and ensure doses were stored properly.<br><br>• Confirm that vaccines were not exposed to out-of-range temperatures (or any temperature excursion was reported).<br>• Confirm location understands they must accept the redistribution in myCAvax and updated inventory must be reported to Vaccine Finder. |
| 9. | 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.) |
| 10. | Sending and receiving locations must ensure updated inventory counts are reflected in their daily reporting to VaccineFinder's COVID Locating Health provider portal. |