

# Transporting Moderna Vaccine



## California COVID-19 Vaccination Program

In most instances, vaccine will be delivered directly to the facility where it will be administered to maintain the cold chain. However, there may be circumstances where COVID-19 vaccine needs to be transported. In these instances, vaccine should only be transported using appropriate packing materials that provide maximum protection.

### Frozen Transport

Frozen transport (25°C to -15°C; -13°F to 5°F) is preferred. Follow guidelines in CDC's [Vaccine Storage & Handling Toolkit](#) for transporting COVID-19 vaccine products.

### Refrigerated Transport

Moderna vaccine being transported at temperatures others than frozen (-15 to -25°C) should begin with the vaccine in the frozen state if at all possible. If you must transport vaccine that has already been thawed, follow these general principles:

- Protect vaccines from drops, shocks and vibrations; transport in carton when possible
- Vaccines should always be transported in insulated containers qualified to maintain 2-8°C for the duration of transport; secure transport containers during transport to prevent unnecessary movement
- Refrigerated transport (2° to 8°C; 36° to 46°F) is allowed **more than once for up to 12 hours total**; use [Beyond Use Date labels](#) to track reduced shelf life
- Care must be taken to ensure vaccine does not re-freeze during transport
- Vaccine should be transported in the carton whenever possible; if transport of vials is required, vials should be placed with dunnage (padding material like bubble wrap or similar padding) to minimize movement during transport
- Transport punctured vials at refrigerated temperatures (2° to 8°C; 36° to 46°F); once punctured, vaccines must be administered within 6 hours; transport time counts towards 6 hours; discard any remaining vaccine after 6 hours
- CDC recommends transport of punctured vials; if transport of pre-drawn syringes is required; transport at refrigerator temperatures between 2°C and 8°C (35°F to 46°F) following guidance in [USP COVID-19 Vaccine Handling Toolkit](#)
- After transport, vaccines should immediately be placed into a vaccine storage unit at 2-8°C
- Transport time while walking or using a hand cart is not to exceed 1 hour; for vehicle transport, transport time is not to exceed 12 hours