

Storage and Handling Reminders for COVID-19 Vaccines

2023-2024 COVID-19 Vaccine Availability


As we approach the end of the 2023-2024 season, COVID-19 vaccine availability is changing.

CDC anticipates that COVID-19 vaccine for all age groups will continue to be available for provider orders until the end of the 2023-2024 season. However, as manufacturers prepare for the 2024-2025 season, we anticipate changes in the availability of specific products and brands through CDC's programs and the commercial market.


Specifically, for CDC's programs, product availability is expected as follows:

- **Novavax:** Latest 2023-2024 expiry is 5/31/2024. CDC will discontinue provider ordering on April 30, 2024.
- **Pfizer:** Latest 2023-2024 expiry is 7/31/2024 (6m-4yo) and 8/31/2024 (5-11y and 12yo+ refrigerated/never frozen). Pfizer estimates supply will run out as soon as early May for 6m-4yo, end of contract (June 6) for 5-11yo and late May/early June for 12yo+. CDC will continue provider orders for 6m-4yo until Pfizer's inventory for CDC is depleted, for 5-11yo until June 6, and for 12yo+ until Pfizer's inventory for CDC is depleted.
- **Moderna:** Latest 2023-2024 expiry for 6m-11yo and 12yo+ vaccines is late September or better. Moderna indicates supply sufficient to meet demand between now and when 2024-2025 vaccine is available. CDC anticipates continuing bulk and provider ordering throughout the remainder of the 2023-2024 season.


As a reminder, COVID-19 vaccine shelf-life is less than it was at the beginning of the season and will continue to get shorter as we approach the end of the season. To manage this reduction in shelf life for COVID-19 vaccines, CDC recommends providers order smaller quantities of vaccine (3-4 weeks of usage) and utilize more frequent orders if needed.



Ages: 6 months through 4 years
Multiple-dose vial:
yellow cap and yellow label



Ages: 5 through 11 years
Single dose vial:
blue cap and blue label



Ages: 12 years and older
Single-dose vial: gray cap and gray label
Plastic Manufacturer-filled syringe
Glass Manufacturer-filled syringe

Proper Storage and Handling of Pfizer-BioNTech Covid-19 Vaccine:


- -90°C and -60°C (-130°F and -76°F) until the expiration date
- 2°C and 8°C (36°F and 46°F) for up to 10 weeks
- 8°C and 25°C (46°F and 77°F) for up to 12 hours prior to the first puncture or use.

Do not store in a standard freezer.


NOTE: The beyond-use date (10 weeks) replaces the manufacturer’s expiration date but NEVER extends it. Always use the earliest date. Do NOT use vaccine after the expiration date or beyond-use date.

Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine [beyond-use date tracking labels](#)

Moderna COVID-19 Vaccine



Ages: 6 months through 11 years
Single-dose vial:
Dark blue cap and green label



Ages: 12 years and older
Single-dose vial:
Dark blue cap and blue label
Manufacturer-filled syringe

Proper Storage and Handling of Moderna COVID-19 Vaccine:

- -50°C and -15°C (-58°F and 5°F) until the expiration date
- 2°C and 8°C (36°F and 46°F) for up to 30 days
- 8°C and 25°C (46°F and 77°F) for a total of 24 hours. Discard vial or syringe and unused vaccine after 24 hours.

NOTE: The beyond-use date (30 days) replaces the manufacturer’s expiration date but NEVER extends it. Always use the earliest date. Do NOT use vaccine after the expiration date or beyond-use date.

Moderna COVID-19 Vaccine [beyond-use date tracking labels](#)

Novavax COVID-19 Vaccine



Ages: 12 years of age and older
(blue cap and blue label)
Multidose Vial

Proper Storage and Handling of Novavax COVID-19 Vaccine:

- Before Puncture: 2°C and 8°C (36°F and 46°F) for up to 9 months*. **Do NOT freeze.**
- After 1st Puncture: 2°C and 25°C (36°F and 77°F) for up to 12 hours. **Do NOT use after 12 hours.** Discard vial and any unused vaccine after 12 hours.
 - **Note:** The beyond-use time (12 hours) replaces the manufacturer’s expiration date but NEVER extends it. Always use the earliest date. Do NOT use vaccine if the expiration date or beyond-use time has passed.

Novavax COVID-19 Vaccine [beyond-use-date tracking labels](#)

If any doses of COVID-19 vaccines have been stored improperly, please follow the below guidance.

Storage and handling	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dose administered after improper storage and handling (i.e., temperature excursion) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contact the manufacturer for information on the stability of the vaccine.⁶ If the manufacturer does not have data to support the stability of the vaccine, repeat the dose immediately (no minimum interval).⁵
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dose administered past the expiration/beyond-use date 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Repeat the dose immediately (no minimum interval).⁵

COVID-19 vaccine manufacturer’s stability tool:

- Pfizer Temperature Stability Calculator
 - [Temperature Stability Calculator | Pfizer Medical Information - US](#)
- Moderna Temperature Excursion Tool
 - [Storage & temperature excursion for Moderna COVID-19 vaccine \(modernamedinfo.com\)](#)

Resources:

- [Interim Clinical Considerations for Use of COVID-19 Vaccines: Appendices, References, and Previous Updates | CDC](#)
- [U.S. COVID-19 Vaccine Product Information | CDC](#)
- [Vaccines Storage and Handling Toolkit | CDC](#)
- [Vaccines and Immunizations: For Healthcare Professionals | CDC](#)