



# State of Louisiana

Louisiana Department of Health  
Office of Public Health

## Guidance on Receiving and Storing Full 975 Dose Pfizer COVID-19 Vaccine Shipments

- Some sites have the capacity to receive a full shipment of directly shipped Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine. These vials/doses come in a special ultra-cold storage shipping container.
- Sites need to have plans for storing the doses in one of the following ways if selected to receive these large volume shipments:
  1. **Ultra cold storage unit** keeping vaccine at -80°C and -60°C (-112°F and -76°F). Never remove a vial from an ultra-cold freezer and place it back into an ultra-cold environment. Once a vial is touched and or removed from the ultra cold environment it needs to be thawed for 30 minutes and used within 6 hours or directly placed into refrigeration for up to 4 ½ days before it expires.
  2. Within the **original shipping container** with dry ice replenishment over 14 days.
  3. Stored in your **refrigerator** with temperatures between 2-8 degrees Celsius. If choosing this option, your site has only **4 ½ days** to utilize the vaccine at the refrigerated temperature before it expires.

See the Pfizer storage and handling summary at <https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/covid-19/info-by-product/pfizer/downloads/storage-summary.pdf>.

See the CDC toolkit for more information on proper storage and handling practices <https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/hcp/admin/storage/toolkit/storage-handling-toolkit.pdf>.

- Second doses will come in a separate shipment weeks later with quantities to match the dose 1 shipment. Do not retain any portion of first dose shipments for second dose purposes.
- To avoid any loss of vaccine please read the Programs' Avoiding Vaccine Loss document [https://ldh.la.gov/assets/oph/Center-PHCH/Center-PH/immunizations/AvoidingCOVID19VaxLoss\\_12\\_31\\_20.pdf](https://ldh.la.gov/assets/oph/Center-PHCH/Center-PH/immunizations/AvoidingCOVID19VaxLoss_12_31_20.pdf)
- Call your Immunization Consultant if you know that within 48 hours of the expiration if you will not utilize the vaccine. Consultant contact information is located on the LINKS homepage. <https://lalinks.org/linksweb/>
- For general questions on vaccine, please contact [la.immunization@la.gov](mailto:la.immunization@la.gov).