



Health Alert Network Message 21-36: Moderna COVID-19 Vaccine Vial Considerations Update

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Revision Dates (List All Revision Dates):

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Department of Health
Office of Public Health

DATE: April 21, 2021
TO: All COVID-19 Vaccine Providers and Provider Sites
SUBJECT: **Moderna Vaccine Vial Updates and General State Expectations After Piercing a Vial**

The recently updated Moderna COVID-19 Vaccine Emergency Use Authorization (EUA) contains important changes involving vaccine storage temperatures/timeframes and preparation practices, that can help with reduced vaccine wastage. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends providers become aware of these Moderna vaccine related updates.

Unpunctured Moderna vaccine vials:

- The Moderna COVID-19 Vaccine multiple-dose vials are stored frozen **between -50° to -15°C (-58° to 5°F)**. This is a new, wider temperature range and is consistent with other recommended vaccines stored in the freezer.
- Vials may be stored refrigerated between 2° to 8°C (36° to 46°F) for up to 30 days prior to first use. This is unchanged.
- Vials may be stored **between 8° to 25°C (46° to 77°F) for a total of 24 hours**. This is an increase from 12 hours to 24 hours.

Punctured Moderna vaccine vials:

- After the first dose has been withdrawn, the vial should be held **between 2° to 25°C (36° to 77°F) for up to 12 hours**. **Vials should be discarded 12 hours after the first puncture**. This is an increase from 6 hours to 12 hours.

The state encourages the vaccination of individuals at the time they are presenting for COVID-19 vaccination. Generally, do not delay the vaccination of any individual due to the fact that you may not have enough appointments set to exhaust all vaccine remaining in a punctured vial. Providers will not be penalized by the state if some unavoidable vaccine wastage occurs due to the provider being unable to find enough individuals, within 12 hours of the Moderna vaccine vial being pierced, to administer all doses from the pierced vial. Providers should still make every good-faith attempt to administer all doses from a pierced Moderna vaccine vial within the allowed timeframe (12 hours).

These Moderna related expectations are similar with Pfizer vaccines. You will not be penalized if mixing a Pfizer vial to vaccinate individuals that present for vaccination, when you may not necessarily have enough appointments to exhaust all doses from the originally mixed vial. Some unavoidable vaccine wastage could occur in these instances. Again the state asks that providers attempt to limit these instances and try to get all doses from a vial fully administered. Reminder that a mixed Pfizer vaccine vial must be kept at 2°C and 25°C (36°F to 77°F). Pfizer vaccine, once mixed, must still be discarded six hours from mixing.

CDC clinical materials and trainings are being updated to reflect the Moderna vaccine related changes listed above. You can read the full Moderna EUA at: [Moderna COVID-19 Vaccine EUA Fact Sheet for Health Care Providers \(fda.gov\)](https://www.fda.gov/oc/2020/05/moderna-covid-19-vaccine-eua-fact-sheet-for-health-care-providers)

Clinical materials and trainings for Moderna COVID-19 vaccine and other COVID-19 products can be accessed at: [U.S. COVID-19 Vaccine Product Information | CDC](https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/imz/downloads/#covid-19)

CDC Moderna Vaccine Preparation and Administration Summary (Information Sheet):

<https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/covid-19/info-by-product/moderna/downloads/prep-and-admin-summary.pdf>

CDC Pfizer Vaccine Preparation and Administration Summary (Information Sheet):

<https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/covid-19/info-by-product/pfizer/downloads/prep-and-admin-summary.pdf>