

# COVID-19 Vaccine Storage & Handling

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# Louisiana COVID-19 Vaccination Guidelines

- Only individuals that are in the **current phases** can be vaccinated.
- You must **use the vaccine** distributed to you within **14 days** unless it expires sooner than that.
- All vaccine doses administered must be entered into LINKS within **24 hours and inputted as administered**, NOT historical.
- **Second-doses are automatically ordered**, matching the first amount of doses given.
- To request additional vaccine, complete the **Vaccine Request Form** found on the COVID-19 Provider webpage. The deadline each week is 8:30 a.m. on Monday.

# Moderna

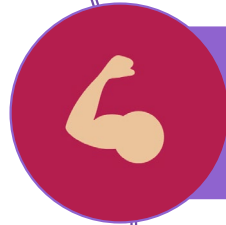
COVID-19 Vaccine

# Overview of the Moderna COVID-19 Vaccine



Age indication:

- 18 years or older.



Dose & Route:

- 0.5 mL; intramuscular



Schedule:

- 0, 28 days



Dose Preparation:

- Multi-dose; 10 doses per vial

Storage &  
Handling for  
Moderna  
COVID-19  
Vaccine:  
Direct from  
McKesson



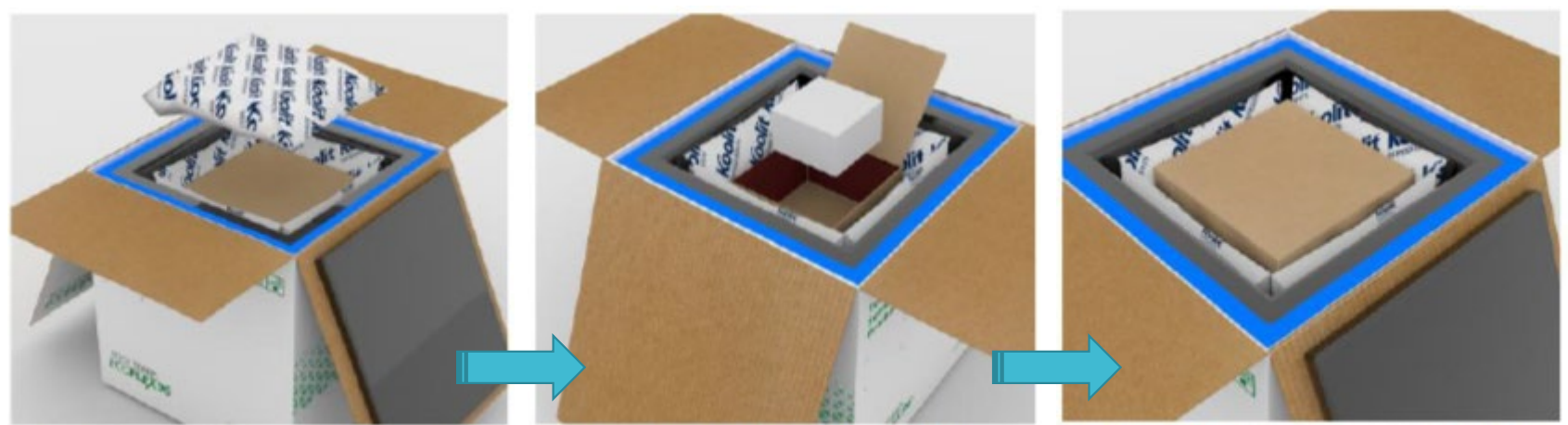
- Vaccine will arrive **frozen**
- Larger quantities

## Receiving the Moderna COVID-19 vaccine shipment

- Examine the shipment for **signs of damage**.
- Open the box and **remove the TagAlert Temperature Monitor** from the box.
- Check the TagAlert temperature monitoring device by pressing the blue “start and stop” button.
  - Left arrow points to a **green checkmark**. The vaccine **is ready to use**.
  - Right arrow points to the **red X**. **Do not use!** Call the phone number indicated in the instructions for further guidance.



## Moderna: Returning EcoFlex Shipping Container



- Remove the top Koolit PCM gel pack(s).
- Remove the vaccine from the inner corrugated box. Transfer the vaccine in a vaccine-storage refrigerator.
- Ensure the inner corrugated box is back in the EcoFlex shipping system. **This will help prevent damage during return.**

## Moderna: Returning EcoFlex Shipping Container



- Place the top Koolit PCM gel pack(s) back on top. **This will help prevent damage during return.**
- Fold in the original outer flaps. Fold in the remaining flaps with return shipping label exposed, then tape the seam.
- Give it to UPS to return for reuse.

**Please do not return anything in the box (TagAlert, syringes, needles, empty vaccine vials, etc.)**



# Storage & Handling for Moderna COVID-19 Vaccine: Morris & Dickson



- Vaccine will arrive **thawed**
- Smaller Quantities

## Receiving the Moderna COVID-19 vaccine shipment

- The Morris & Dickson driver will **verify there were no temperature excursions** during delivery.
- **Remove the vaccine vials** from the shipper, then transfer them to the fridge.

The driver will take the shipper and digital data logger (DDL) to be reused.



# Moderna Vaccine Storage | Refrigerated

2°C to 8°C

36°F to 46°F

## Refrigerator

- Unopened vial: up to 30 days; however, Louisiana guidelines state the vaccine should be administered within 14 days.
- Punctured vial: up to 6 hours | 2°C to 25°C (36°F to 77°F)

## Room Temperature

- Unopened vial: 12 hours | 25°C (77°F)
- Punctured vial: up to 6 hours | 2°C to 25°C (36°F to 77°F)

**Thawed vaccine cannot be refrozen**

# Thawing Moderna Vaccine Vials

## Refrigerator $2^{\circ}\text{C}$ to $8^{\circ}\text{C}$ ( $36^{\circ}\text{F}$ to $46^{\circ}\text{F}$ )

- 2.5 hours to thaw

## Room Temperature $15^{\circ}\text{C}$ to $25^{\circ}\text{C}$ ( $59^{\circ}\text{F}$ to $77^{\circ}\text{F}$ )

- Thaw for 1 hour
- Unopened vials may be kept at room temperature for up to 12 hours.
- Once punctured, use or discard within 6 hours.

**Thawed vaccine cannot be refrozen**

# Pfizer- BioNTech

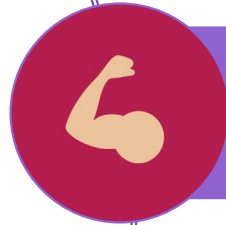
COVID-19 Vaccine

# Overview of the Pfizer- BioNtech COVID-19 Vaccine



Age indication:

- 16 years or older.



Dose & Route:

- 0.3 mL; intramuscular



Schedule:

- 0, 21 days

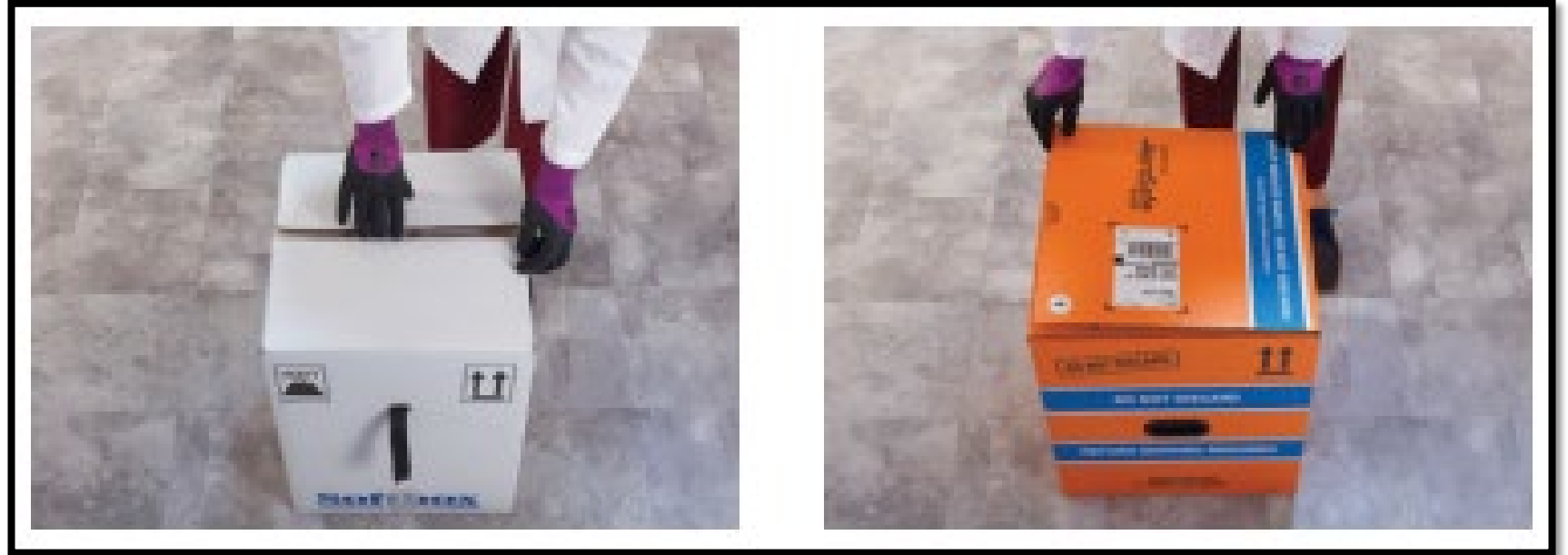


Dose Preparation:

- Multi-dose; 5-6 doses per vial | Reconstitute with diluent

Storage &  
Handling for  
Pfizer-  
BioNTech  
COVID-19  
Vaccine:  
**Direct from  
Pfizer**

# Thermal Shipper



- Shipped in thermal shipping container
- Vaccine arrives **frozen**
- Larger quantities

## Softbox Shipper

## AeroSafe Shipper



When opening, you will see a temperature-monitoring device embedded in the foam lid.



Upon receipt, press and hold the stop button for 5 seconds. Sites are responsible for continuing to monitor the product storage temperature.



Remove the dry ice pod. Remove the box that holds the vial trays from the thermal shipping container in order to access and remove the vial trays. **Remember, do not open the vial trays or remove vials until you are ready for thawing or use.**

After removing the vial trays, you must immediately **store the vaccine product in the ultra-low-temperature (ULT) freezer.**



Pfizer-  
BioNTech:  
**Returning**  
Real-Time  
Temperature  
Monitor and  
Thermal  
Shipping  
Container

- **Remove the remaining dry ice** by leaving it at room temperature in a well-ventilated area. It will change from a solid to a gas.
- Make sure everything to be returned is inside the box, then **tape it shut**. The return label can be found inside the shipper or already adhered to the inner flap of the thermal shipper.
- **Contact the carrier** identified on the return label to arrange the return.

For further instruction, see the **Returning Thermal Shipping Container instructions** included in the shipper.

# Pfizer Vaccine Storage | Frozen

## -80°C to -60°C

## -112°F to -76°F

### Ultra-Low Temperature (ULT) Freezer

- Remove vial trays immediately from the shipper, then transfer to the **Ultra-Low Temperature freezer**.
- The vaccine can be stored in the freezer up to 6 months, but Louisiana guidelines state you must use the vaccine within a 2-week timeframe.

### Pfizer Thermal Shipper with Dry Ice

- The vaccine can be stored in the shipper up to two weeks.
- Quickly inspect the vaccine vial trays, then close the shipper. A new shipment of dry ice will arrive within 24 hours. Replace the dry ice in the shipper as soon as you receive the shipment. Replace every 5 days to maintain the desired temperature, for up to 14 days (you will only receive the initial shipment of dry ice).
- Thermal shipper should only be opened twice daily, max 3 minutes each

# Thawing Pfizer- BioNTech Vaccine Vials

## Refrigerator 2°C to 8°C (36°F to 46°F)

- 25-195 vials: 2-3 hours to thaw
- Fewer vials will take less time

## Room Temperature up to 25°C (77°F)

- Thaw between 30 minutes and 2 hours
- Unopened vials may be kept at room temperature for up to 6 hours. Mix with diluent within the first 2 hours.
- Once diluted, use or discard within the 6-hour timeframe.

**Thawed vaccine cannot be refrozen**

Storage &  
Handling for  
Pfizer-  
BioNTech  
COVID-19  
Vaccine:  
Morris &  
Dickson



- Vaccine will arrive refrigerated.
- Use in 4.5 days (108 hours).

Thawed vaccine cannot be refrozen

## Receiving the Pfizer- BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine shipment

- The Morris & Dickson driver will **verify there were no temperature excursions** during delivery.
- **Remove the vaccine vials** from the shipper, then transfer them to the fridge.

**The driver will take the shipper and digital data logger (DDL) to be reused.**



# Pfizer Vaccine Storage | Refrigerated

2°C to 8°C

36°F to 46°F

## Refrigerator

- Unopened vial: 4.5 days (108 hours)
- Punctured vial: up to 6 hours | 2°C to 25°C (36°F to 77°F)

## Room Temperature

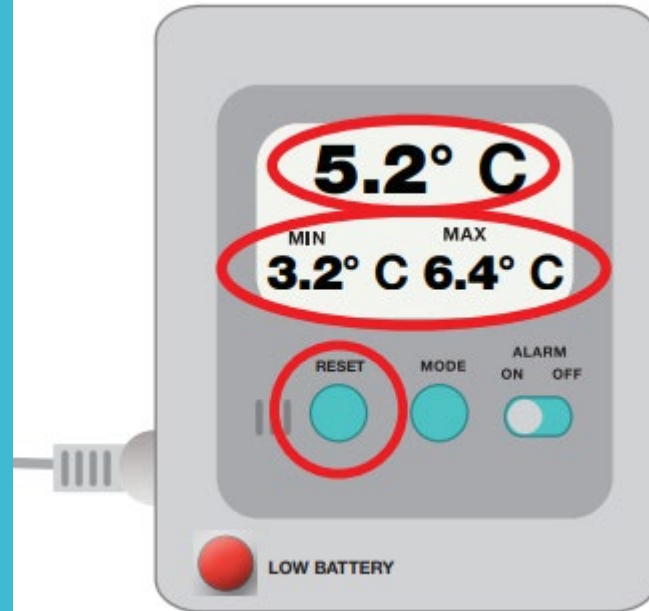
- Unopened vial: 2 hours | 25°C (77°F)
- Punctured vial: up to 6 hours | 2°C to 25°C (36°F to 77°F)
  - Must be reconstituted within 2 hours.
  - A punctured vial, must be reconstituted and used within a 6 hour timeframe.

**Thawed vaccine  
cannot be refrozen**

# Current Vaccine Loss in Louisiana

TYPE OF WASTE	NUMBER OF DOSES
Spoiled	411
Expired	303
Broken Vial	24
Dilution Error	10
Broken Syringe	3
TOTAL	752

# Preventing Vaccine Wastage



- Check and record min/max temperatures at the start of the workday.
- Report out-of-range temperatures immediately.



# Preventing Vaccine Wastage

- Use older vaccine first.
- Place “DO NOT UNPLUG” stickers next to electrical outlets and circuit-breaker boxes vaccine-storage units are connected to.



# Preventing Vaccine Wastage

- Maintain a **list of alternative/backup vaccine recipients** in case scheduled recipients are not administered the vaccine.
- Post on vaccine-storage units a **plan detailing vaccine-handling procedures** in the event of an emergency (e.g., power outage, natural disasters), including transfer to a designated alternate vaccine-storage site.

# Questions?