



Storage and Handling Update

12.30.20



Storage and Handling Update

Agenda

- Emergency Back-Up Plan
- Digital Data Logger Specifications
- Temperature Excursion Reporting
- Moderna Storage and Handling Updates
- Redistribution Process

You will receive this slide deck after this meeting and all referenced documents as soon as they are available.



Emergency Back-Up Plan

Please review, complete, sign and submit to DPH the **NEW** Emergency Vaccine Storage Back-Up Plan

Reminders:

- Have a current Emergency Vaccine Storage Back-Up Plan posted on all storage units
- Monitor for inclement weather conditions and move vaccine **proactively** to a site with a back-up power source (e.g., generator)

Back Up Power Options

1. [Best Practice] Have an automatic back-up generator onsite
 - Make sure this generator is functioning and properly connected to your storage device
2. Coordinate an agreement with a nearby location that has an automatic generator, prior to any emergency
 - This may be the local hospital, pharmacy, fire station, or another practice.
 - Always maintain the cold chain- ensure proper transport and monitoring via a DDL.



Digital Data Logger Specifications

*All COVID-19 vaccine providers **MUST** have a functioning, digital, downloadable, continuous temperature monitoring device (e.g., data logger) with a current and valid certificate of calibration in all storage units that are used for vaccine storage.*

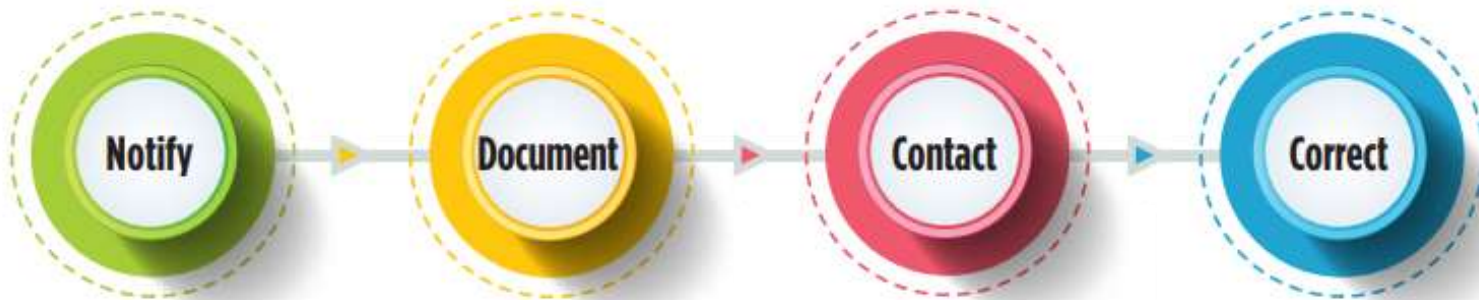
- Maximum logging interval is 15 minutes, but you may choose to have a shorter interval for increased data quality

Other recommended specifications:

- Alarm/Notification system

Temperature Excursion Reporting

- All COVID Vaccine Temperature Excursions require immediate action and must be reported to DPH
 - A new reporting mechanism coming soon via the [DPH Helpdesk](#)
 - Meantime contact 203-679-1229 or 203-806-0726 to report an excursion



Moderna: 1-866-663-3762
Pfizer: 1-800- 666-7248
DPH Helpdesk



Moderna Storage and Handling Update

| Temperature Range | Storage & Handling Guidance |
|--|---|
| Freezer -25°C to -15°C (-13°F to 5°F) | [Recommended Best Practice] <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Recommended storage up to 6 months• Should be kept primarily in the freezer in original packaging• Should be transported in the frozen state |
| Refrigerator* 2°C to 8°C (36°F to 46°F) | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Allowed storage up to 30 days• Should only keep enough stock for clinic day, monitor throughout the day to replenish as needed• Limit transport in the liquid state |
| Room Temperature* 9°C to 25°C (47°F to 77°F) | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Must be used within 12 hours if seal intact• Must be used within 6 hours once seal broken• Open vials should never be transported |

*Thawed vaccine cannot be refrozen

Please go into CT WiZ and update your MANAGE ASSETS with all storage units and data loggers you currently have on-site for use
[For instructions Click Link Here and go to Adding Assets](#)



Redistribution Process

- If you redistribute any amount of your direct COVID vaccine shipment you must:
 1. Submit a signed CDC Supplemental COVID-19 Vaccine Redistribution Agreement to DPH
 - Only needs to be done once by the CoVP provider redistributing (giving) their vaccine
 2. Complete a CoVP Vaccine Transfer/Redistribution Form
 - Must be completed each time vaccine is transferred/redistributed
 - COVID vaccine can only be redistributed to another CoVP-enrolled provider
 - Submit this form to DPH once the transfer is completed



Redistributing/Transporting Moderna Vaccine

- Recommended transport in the frozen state
- Limit transport in the liquid state. If liquid transport is required, follow normal transport guidance and these additional precautions:
 - Vaccine is movement sensitive.
 - Transport in original carton when possible
 - Carton should be placed with padding material (e.g., bubble wrap) inside transport container to minimize product/carton movement
 - Do not transfer vials more than once.

Storage and Handling Update

- Please inspect all vaccine deliveries upon receipt
- Report any discrepancies immediately
- [Pfizer] Remember to press the stop shipment button on the TMD and opt out of continued monitoring if not using the shipper

Updates:

- Ancillary supply kits are going to support extra doses **soon**
- [Moderna] McKesson will be emailing Tracking Numbers **soon**

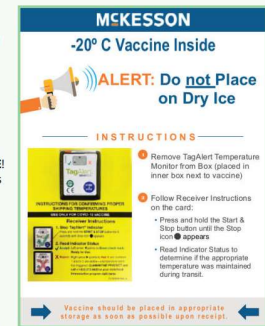
» Deliveries

Vaccine

1. The vaccine will arrive frozen between -25°C and -15°C (-13°F and 5°F).
2. Examine the shipment for signs of damage.
3. Open the box and remove TagAlert Temperature Monitor from box (placed in the inner box next to vaccine).
4. 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. Store the vaccine at proper temperatures immediately.
 - Right arrow points to a **red X**: The numbers 1 and/or 2 will appear in the display. Store the vaccine at proper temperatures and label **DO NOT USE!** Call the phone number indicated in the instructions or your jurisdiction's immunization program **IMMEDIATELY!**

Ancillary Supply Kit

An ancillary supply kit will be provided for administering the vaccine and includes enough supplies to administer 100 doses of vaccine. Administration supplies include needles, syringes, sterile alcohol prep pads, vaccination record cards (shot cards), and some PPE. The kit is delivered separately from the vaccine. Unpack the kit and check for receipt of the correct administration supplies and quantities.



» Deliveries

Vaccine

- When vaccine is delivered:
1. Open the thermal shipping container. Press on the stop shipment button on the temperature monitor device for 5 seconds.
 2. The LED indicator light will change to a solid color and a temperature status report will be e-mailed to the person who ordered the vaccine.
 3. Proceed based on the color of the LED indicator light. No color or red: Wait for the status report. Green: Unpack the vaccine.
 - Do not open the vial trays or remove vials until ready to thaw/use the vaccine.
 - If storing the vaccine at ultra-cold temperatures, return vaccine to frozen storage within 5 minutes.

Dry Ice Safety

1. Dry ice is needed to maintain proper temperatures in the thermal shipping container.
2. Dry ice requires special handling.
3. Ensure staff is trained to handle dry ice safely and have proper PPE.
4. Do not use or store dry ice in confined areas, walk-in refrigerators, environmental chambers, or rooms without ventilation. A leak in such an area could cause an oxygen-deficient atmosphere.

Ancillary Supply Kit

Ancillary supply kit will be delivered separately from the vaccine and includes:

- Mixing supplies: Diluent, needles, syringes, and sterile alcohol prep pads.
 - Do NOT use mixing supplies to administer vaccine.
- Administration supplies: Needles, syringes, sterile alcohol prep pads, vaccination record cards, and some PPE supplies

Each ancillary supply kits contains enough supplies to mix and administer 1 tray of vaccine.



Additional Guidance

Can we use extra doses?

- Yes, the FDA is allowing use of any extra doses that can be drawn from either the Moderna or Pfizer vials. Only administer the extra dose if it is a full extra dose. Do Not draw left over vaccine from multiple vials to make a full dose.

What to do if you have doses left over at the end of a clinic?

- DPH is working on this guidance.



Important Resources

CT Department of Public Health

- CoVP Provider Page: <https://portal.ct.gov/DPH/Immunizations/COVID-19-Vaccine-Providers>
- COVID-19 Prepare to administer the vaccine: <https://portal.ct.gov/DPH/Immunizations/COVID-19-Prepare-to-administer-the-vaccine>

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

- Storage and Handling Toolkit: <https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/hcp/admin/storage/toolkit/storage-handling-toolkit.pdf>
- COVID-19 Vaccine Training Modules: <https://www2.cdc.gov/vaccines/ed/covid19/>
- Pfizer-BioNTech Website: <https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/covid-19/info-by-product/pfizer/index.html>
- Moderna Website: <https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/covid-19/info-by-product/moderna/index.html>

American Academy of Pediatrics

- Refrigerators, Freezers, and Vaccine Storage Guidance: <https://downloads.aap.org/DOPCSP/BuyingGuide%28RF%29AddAccuvax.pdf>
- Data Loggers and Vaccine Monitoring Guidance: https://www.aap.org/en-us/Documents/immunization_dataloggers.pdf

Immunization Action Coalition

- Checklist for Safe Vaccine Storage and Handling: <https://www.immunize.org/catg.d/p3035.pdf>
- Don't Be Guilty of These Preventable Errors in Vaccine Storage and Handling!: <https://www.immunize.org/catg.d/p3036.pdf>



Weekly Bulletin Summary



COVID 19 Vaccine Provider Bulletin

Week of December 28, 2020

There are currently two authorized COVID-19 vaccines: Moderna and Pfizer. We have confidence in both as safe and effective

Connecticut is currently in Phase 1a of roll-out. Eligible individuals in Phase 1a include healthcare personnel, long-term care facility residents, and medical first responders

Connecticut's vaccine distribution is quickly scaling up:

- Roughly 36,000 doses have been administered across the State as of Tuesday evening
- 72 different on-site clinics have been completed at nursing homes; ~120 more will be completed by Dec 31

We do not expect to have a widely available vaccine until the Summer or Fall; public health measures (distancing, masks) remain as important as ever

- For Phase 1a-eligible individuals - we are working to expand access as rapidly as possible, but are supply constrained

No final decisions about Phase 1b have yet been made



COVID 19 Vaccine Provider Bulletin

Week of December 28, 2020

Second dose distributions will be shipped automatically - do not place order for second doses!

- You do not need to place an order for your second doses
- Second doses will be automatically shipped at most 21 days after first doses for Pfizer and at most 24 days after first doses of Moderna to same site as first dose distribution.
- If needed, you can ask us to delay or redirect second dose distributions.

Opening PODS to all Phase 1a eligible:

- We ask that everyone plan to open their POD (at least partially or fully) by the end of the year
 - This means hosting a “standard clinic” in VAMS with published clinic hours and appointment slots, or by making specific arrangements to provide vaccine for Phase 1a-eligible individuals.
- Opening PODS to Phase 1a-eligible individuals beyond your own employees is a prerequisite for continued allocation and ordering



COVID 19 Vaccine Provider Bulletin

Week of December 28, 2020

Second dose scheduling VAMS: Guidance was emailed for how to do second dose scheduling

Second dose timing: Guidance - including about grace periods - is available in the Interim Clinical Considerations for Use of mRNA COVID-19 Vaccines in the Administration section. Our goal is to have everyone who receives a first dose complete the course as close as possible to the 3- or 4-week interval - please ensure you are working with patients to ensure they return to complete the course.

Ordering process: As previously indicated, orders for more “first doses” of vaccine should be submitted through the VAMS clinic portal for VAMS users (or CT WiZ for non-VAMS users) by noon each Wednesday. CT DPH will communicate the amount of vaccine we are able to send you by Friday through the portal used to place the order request. Reminder: Do not order for second doses - they will follow automatically.

Requests for COVID-19 vaccine for delivery the week of January 4th must be placed by 12PM today.



COVID 19 Vaccine Provider Bulletin

Week of December 28, 2020

Expiration dates: To determine the expiration date of a Moderna vaccine, consult the Moderna website. Pfizer vaccine should have an expiration date printed on the vial.

Adverse event reporting: Please remember to report any adverse events in recipients following COVID-19 vaccination to the Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System and encourage participation in V-safe by including information about the system at clinic locations.



Phase 1b & 1c of roll-out: ACIP has released guidance; no final guidance in CT

ACIP guidelines

Connecticut

Phase 1b

**Individuals 75 and older
Frontline essential workers**

Phase 1c

**Individuals 65-74
Other essential workers
Persons aged 16-64 years with medical conditions that increase the risk for severe COVID-19**

No final decisions about Phase 1B have yet to be made for Connecticut



Phase 1a:

Detail about Healthcare Personnel eligibility

A key component of eligibility is **exposure or the potential for exposure to COVID** in the course of one's healthcare duties. Phase 1a is *not* for all individuals who work for a healthcare provider: individuals who are only teleworking (including both clinicians and other staff) or do not have risk of exposure in their worksite are not eligible to receive vaccine in Phase 1a. (Individuals who are doing house calls or in-home health work *are* eligible).

| Group | Phase 1a eligible |
|--|---|
| Doctors, nurses, and allied healthcare providers seeing patients | Yes |
| Custodial, dietary, administrative & support staff working in patient care settings | Yes |
| First responders (e.g., police, fire) | Some – if actively responding to medical 911 calls or involved in care for COVID or suspected COVID cases |
| School nurses | Yes |
| Home health providers (e.g., PCAs, homemaker companions) | Yes |
| Dentists, dental hygienists, and other oral health staff | Yes |
| Laboratory staff | Yes |
| Students in clinical rotations | Yes |
| Death care workers entering healthcare settings, homes, or with exposure to decedents | Yes |
| Clinicians practicing exclusively telehealth | No |
| Employees of healthcare organizations working away from patient care settings or from home | No |



Addressing hesitancy

We all should be ready to address vaccine hesitancy

- Let us know if you have questions or need support

- **Trust is critical:** Information and dialogue with trusted individuals is important
- **Assertively correct misconceptions:** Clarify and reaffirm correct beliefs about immunization and modify misconceptions.
- **Provide strong, personal endorsement:** Share why you think it's important to receive a COVID-19 vaccine.
- **Discuss benefits and unknowns openly:** Be open about what is known and what is not known. Provide information and personalize based on cultural beliefs, vaccine concerns, and literacy level
- **Be positive:** Stress the potential for lives saved rather than focusing on deaths from not immunizing