Vaccine Management

California COVID-19 Vaccination Program

Redistribution

Vaccines should be shipped directly to vaccination settings to minimize breaks in the cold chain. However, there may be circumstances where COVID-19 vaccines need to be routinely transported to additional clinic locations responsible for vaccine administration. In these instances, healthcare organizations, third-party vendors, and vaccination providers—primary organization or secondary location—must apply and receive authorization from the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) to routinely redistribute COVID-19 vaccines to other provider locations. The receiving location must be an enrolled and approved COVID-19 vaccination provider.

Refer to Redistribution Agreement: Before You Apply (PDF) to see if redistribution is an option for you. For approved redistribution entities, refer to Redistributing Vaccines (PDF) for step-by-step guidance and reporting.

Repositioning

Repositioning is the transport of doses for administration at another setting when unused doses will be returned to the original facility at the end of the day. Satellite, temporary and off-site clinics are authorized to transport vaccines without prior authorization because ownership is not changing hands. However, these situations require additional oversight and enhanced storage and handling practices. The repositioning entity will report their doses administered and on hand at the end of the clinic day.

Refer to Repositioning Vaccines: Guidance for Satellite, Temporary, and Off-Site Clinics (PDF) for details.

Transfers

Transferring vaccines is not a routine event but a response to unplanned events. Vaccines should be direct shipped to vaccination settings to minimize breaks in the cold chain. However, there may be circumstances where COVID-19 vaccines need to be transferred to another clinic location due to excess supply or imminent expiration of doses. The receiving location takes ownership of transferred vaccines and must be an enrolled and approved COVID-19 vaccination provider.

Refer to Transferring Vaccines (PDF) for step-by-step guidance and reporting.

Vaccine Transports

As part of the COVID-19 Vaccination Program, a minimum order size of COVID-19 vaccine, diluent, and ancillary supplies will be shipped directly to enrolled COVID-19 vaccination providers. In most instances, vaccine will be delivered directly to the facility where it will be administered to maintain the vaccine cold chain. However, there may be circumstances where COVID-19 vaccine needs to be transported. In these instances, appropriate precautions should be taken to protect the vaccine. Vaccine should only be transported using appropriate packing materials that provide maximum protection.

Transporting vaccine requires planning and preparation to ensure the cold chain is maintained. Carefully review CDC's Vaccine Storage and Handling Toolkit (PDF) Section Six, "Vaccine Transport" to ensure your facility has the appropriate procedures and supplies in place to safely transport vaccine. For product-specific guidance, refer to Transporting Pfizer Vaccine (PDF) and Transporting Moderna Vaccine (PDF).

Document all vaccine transport events using the COVID-19 Vaccine Transport Log (PDF).

Beyond Use Dates

Vaccine shelf life may be shortened by storage method (e.g., thermal shipper, ULT freezer, or routine refrigerator). CDC has developed Pfizer (PDF) and Moderna (PDF) "beyond-use-date" (BUD) tracker labels to assist clinicians with tracking dates.

Refer to Receiving & Storing Pfizer Vaccine (PDF) and Receiving & Storing Moderna Vaccine (PDF) for details.

Managing Vaccine Expiration Dates

Vials may have QR codes that can be scanned to determine expiration dates. Expiration dates may change as manufacturers share additional stability data. CDC has developed tracking tool that providers can use to record updated expiration dates for COVID-19 vaccine. When the current expiration date gets close, contact the manufacturer before discarding vaccine. Document the current date, the vaccine lot number, and the updated expiration date. CDPH will provide guidance on disposing of non-viable vaccines when available.

Refer to COVID-19 Vaccine Expiration Date Tracking Tool (PDF) for details.

Vial and Carton Labels under EUA

It is anticipated that COVID-19 vaccines will initially be authorized under an EUA. Vial and carton labels for vaccines authorized under an EUA will contain slight variations from labels typical of *approved* Food and Drug Administration (FDA) products, including:

- **Expiration Date:** The vaccine vials and cartons may not contain a printed expiration date. Expiration dates may be updated based on vaccine stability studies occurring simultaneously with COVID-19 vaccine distribution and administration. Additional information will be provided about how to access expiry information for individual vaccines. To ensure that information systems continue to work as expected, CDC has worked with FDA and the manufacturers to include a two-dimensional (2D) barcode on the vaccine vial (if possible) and carton (required) labels that includes a National Drug Code (NDC), lot number, and a placeholder expiration date of 12/31/2069 to be read by a scanner. The placeholder 12/31/2069 expiration date is not visible on the vaccine packaging nor found anywhere else; it is only to facilitate information system compatibility. CDC is developing "beyond use date" (BUD) tracker labels to assist clinicians with tracking expiration dates at the point of vaccine administration. The label templates will be available on the CDC website.
- **Manufactured Date:** A manufactured date will be on the packaging and should not be used as the expiration date when documenting vaccine administration. This date is provided to help with managing stock rotations; however, expiration dates should also be considered (see above) as using manufactured date alone could have some limitations.
- **2D Barcode:** The 2D barcode available on the vaccine carton (also on the vials for some vaccines) will include NDC, lot number, and a placeholder expiration date of 12/31/2069.
- **QR Code:** Each vaccine manufacturer will include a Quick Response (QR) code on the vaccine carton for accessing FDA-authorized, vaccine product-specific EUA fact sheets for COVID-19 vaccination providers and COVID-19 vaccine recipients.

Refer to the Pfizer EUA and Moderna EUA websites for details and updates.