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## **Moderna COVID-19 Vaccine Transport: Unpunctured and Punctured Vials**

The U.S. CDC does not recommend routine transport of COVID-19 vaccines. Ideally, COVID-19 vaccines should be delivered directly to the facility where they will be used. There may be circumstances where COVID-19 vaccine needs to be transported. In these instances, vaccine should only be transported using appropriate packing materials that provide maximum protection and following the guidelines below.

### **Transporting Unpunctured Vials**

#### **Frozen transport:**

- Between -15°C and -25°C (-13°F and 5°F) Frozen transport is preferred.
- Handle vaccine with care and package securely to minimize shaking and avoid breakage.

#### **Refrigerated transport:**

- Between 2°C and 8°C (36°F and 46°F) for up to 12 hours (cumulative). This 12-hour BUD includes any time vaccine is stored in cool cubes, coolers, or pack-outs for a clinic. Take care to ensure vaccine does not refreeze.
- Beyond-use date labels have been updated to include transport time.

### **Transporting Punctured Vials**

- Transport punctured vials between 2°C and 8°C (36°F and 46°F).
- Once punctured, the vaccine must be administered within 6 hours.
  - Time used for transport counts as part of the 6-hour time limit.
- Any vaccine remaining after 6 hours must be discarded.

### **During transport for Unpunctured and Punctured Vials**

- Digital Data Loggers (DDLs) that display minimum/maximum (min/max) temperatures must be used. If the DDL does not measure min/max temperatures, check and record temperatures hourly.
- Record the time and min/max temperatures:
  - At the start of transport
  - Every time the storage container is opened
  - When transport is completed
  - The total time for transport alone or transport plus clinic workday should be a maximum of 8 hours.
    - Beyond-use date/time, if applicable, are included in transport time.

Should you have additional questions, please feel free to call the Maine Immunization Program at 207-287-3746.