

COVID-19 Vaccine

Quick Reference Guide for Healthcare Professionals



The table below provides basic information on the proper storage, preparation, and administration of the currently authorized COVID-19 vaccine products in the United States. For additional information and detailed clinical guidance go to the manufacturer's and CDC's webpages listed.

| | Pfizer-BioNTech | Moderna | Janssen | |
|-------------------------------------|---|--|--|---|
| GENERAL | EUA | www.fda.gov/emergency-preparedness-and-response/coronavirus-disease-2019-covid-19/pfizer-biontech-covid-19-vaccine | www.fda.gov/emergency-preparedness-and-response/coronavirus-disease-2019-covid-19/janssen-covid-19-vaccine | |
| | CDC Vaccine Information | www.cdc.gov/vaccines/covid-19/info-by-product/pfizer/index.html | www.cdc.gov/vaccines/covid-19/info-by-product/moderna/index.html | |
| | Manufacturer Contact Information | Website: www.cvdvaccine.com Medical information: 800-438-1985 Customer service: 800-879-3477 | Website: www.modernatx.com Medical Information: 866-663-3762 | Website: www.vaxcheck.jnj Medical information: 1-800-565-4008 |
| STORAGE & HANDLING | How Supplied | Multidose vial: 6 doses | Multidose vial: Maximum of 15 doses | |
| | Diluent | 0.9% sodium chloride (preservative-free, normal saline) provided in the ancillary kit. Do NOT use other diluent. | None | |
| | Storage Temperatures: Before Puncture | Between: -90°C and -60°C (-130°F and -76°F) until the expiration date -25°C and -15°C (-13°F and 5°F) for up to 2 weeks 2°C and 8°C (36°F and 46°F) for up to 1 month (31 days) | Between: -50°C and -15°C (-58°F and 5°F) until the expiration date 2°C and 8°C (36°F and 46°F) for up to 30 days 8°C and 25°C (46° and 77°F) for a total of 24 hours | Between: 2°C and 8°C (36°F and 46°F) until the expiration date. |
| | Storage Temperatures: After Puncture | Between: 2°C to 25°C (36°F to 77°F) for up to 6 hours. Discard any unused vaccine after 6 hours. | Between: 2°C and 25°C (36°F and 77°F) for up to 12 hours. Discard any unused vaccine after 12 hours. | Between: 2°C and 8°C (36°F and 46°F) for up to 6 hours. 9°C and 25°C (47°F and 77°F) for up to 2 hours. Discard any unused vaccine after these time frames. |
| | Transport Temperatures: Before Puncture | Between: -90°C and -60°C (-130°F and -76°F) -25°C and -15°C (-13°F and 5°F) 2°C and 8°C (36°F and 46°F) | Between: -50°C and -15°C (-58°F and 5°F) 2°C and 8°C (36°F and 46°F) for up to 12 cumulative hours. | Between: 2°C and 8°C (36°F and 46°F) |
| | Transport Temperatures*: After Puncture | Between: 2°C to 25°C (36°F to 77°F) for up to 6 hours. | Between: 2°C and 25°C (36°F and 77°F) for up to 12 hours. | Between: 2°C and 8°C (36°F and 46°F) for up to 6 hours |
| VACCINE ADMINISTRATION | Type of Vaccine | mRNA | mRNA | |
| | Age Indications | 12 years of age and older | 18 years of age and older | |
| | Schedule[†] | 2-doses, separated by 21 days [‡] ; both doses should be Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine | 2 doses, separated by 28 days [‡] ; both doses should be Moderna vaccine | |
| | Dosage | 0.3 mL | 0.5 mL | |
| | Needle Gauge/Length | 12 through 18 years of age: 22–25 gauge, 1" 19 years of age and older: 22–25 gauge, 1 – 1½" | 22–25 gauge, 1 – 1½" | |
| | Route | Intramuscular (IM) injection | Intramuscular (IM) injection | |
| | Site | Deltoid | Deltoid | |
| | Thawing Frozen Vaccine | Between: 2°C and 8°C (36°F and 46°F) or Room temperature up to 25°C (77°F) Do NOT refreeze thawed vaccine. | Between: 2°C and 8°C (36°F and 46°F) or 8°C to 25°C (46°F to 77°F) Do NOT refreeze thawed vaccine. | N/A |
| | Mixing Vaccine | Mix vaccine with 1.8 mL of 0.9% sodium chloride (preservative-free, normal saline) | Do NOT mix with any diluent | Do NOT mix with any diluent |
| | Contraindications/Precautions | <p>Contraindications</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Severe allergic reaction (e.g., anaphylaxis) after a previous dose or to a component of the COVID-19 vaccine Immediate allergic reaction[§] of any severity to a previous dose or known (diagnosed) allergy to a component of the vaccine <p>Note: Persons who have a contraindication to an mRNA COVID-19 vaccine (Moderna or Pfizer-BioNTech) may be able to receive the Janssen COVID-19 vaccine (see footnote).[¶]</p> <p>Persons who have a contraindication to Janssen COVID-19 vaccine may be able to receive an mRNA COVID-19 vaccine (see footnote).[¶]</p> <p>Precautions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Most people determined to have a precaution to a COVID-19 vaccine at their appointment can and should be administered vaccine. History of an immediate allergic reaction[§] to any other vaccine or injectable therapy (i.e., intramuscular, intravenous, or subcutaneous vaccines or therapies) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> This includes people with a reaction to a vaccine or injectable therapy that contains multiple components, one of which is a vaccine component, but for whom it is unknown which component elicited the immediate allergic reaction. People with a contraindication to mRNA COVID-19 vaccines have a precaution to Janssen COVID-19 Vaccine, and vice versa. (see footnote).[¶] Moderate to severe acute illness <p>See Interim Clinical Considerations for Use of mRNA COVID-19 Vaccines Currently Authorized in the United States http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/covid-19/info-by-product/clinical-considerations.html</p> | | |
| Post-Vaccination Observation | <p>30 minutes: People with a history of an immediate allergic reaction of any severity to a vaccine or injectable therapy, contraindication to a different type of COVID-19 vaccine, or history of anaphylaxis due to any cause.</p> <p>15 minutes: All other persons</p> | | | |
| Most Common Adverse Events | Injection site: pain, swelling, redness Systemic: fatigue, headache, muscle pain, chills, fever, joint pain | Injection site: pain, swelling, redness Systemic: fatigue, headache, muscle pain, chills, fever, nausea, joint pain | Injection site: pain, redness, swelling Systemic: fatigue, headache, muscle pain, nausea, fever | |

*CDC recommends transporting vaccine at refrigerated or frozen temperatures.

[†]COVID-19 vaccines and other vaccines may be administered on the same day, as well as within 14 days of each other. When deciding if to administer COVID-19 vaccines and other vaccines, providers should consider whether the patient is behind or at risk of becoming behind on recommended vaccines, their risk of vaccine-preventable diseases (e.g., during an outbreak), and the reactogenicity profile of the vaccines.

[‡]Consider an additional dose at least 28 days after the initial 2-dose primary series for people with moderate to severe immune compromise.

[§]For the purpose of this guidance, an immediate allergic reaction is defined as any hypersensitivity-related signs or symptoms, such as urticaria, angioedema, respiratory distress (e.g., wheezing, stridor), or anaphylaxis that occur within 4 hours following exposure to a vaccine or medication.

[¶]Consider consultation with an allergist-immunologist to help determine if the patient can safely receive vaccination. Healthcare providers and health departments may also request a consultation from the Clinical Immunization Safety Assessment COVID vax Project <https://www.cdc.gov/vaccinesafety/ensuringsafety/monitoring/cisa/index.html>. Vaccination of these individuals should only be done in an appropriate setting under the supervision of a healthcare provider experienced in the management of severe allergic reactions.

• People with a contraindication to mRNA COVID-19 vaccines (including due to a known PEG allergy) have a precaution to Janssen COVID-19 vaccination. People who have previously received an mRNA COVID-19 vaccine dose but have a contraindication to a second dose should wait at least 28 days to receive Janssen COVID-19 Vaccine.

• People with a contraindication to Janssen COVID-19 Vaccine (including due to a known polysorbate allergy) have a precaution to mRNA COVID-19 vaccination.