

# COVID-19 AstraZeneca/COVISHIELD Vaccine

## Shipping, Storage, and Use Guidelines

### Shipping:

- Ideally, transport of vaccine is conducted only with unpunctured vials in a 2°C to 8°C environment – exceptions may be made in rare instances for [pre-loaded syringes](#).
- Vials should be upright during transport, and tightly packed to reduce jostling of the vials.
- Validated containers must be used for transport.
- Temperature must be monitored continuously during transportation and documented.
- If vaccine is being repackaged for onward distribution, packing should be completed as close to the refrigerators as possible to reduce time vaccine is outside of a 2°C to 8°C environment.

### Storage:

- **Unopened vials** have a shelf life of 6 months when stored in a refrigerator at 2°C to 8°C.
- Keep vials in a 2°C to 8°C environment (i.e. refrigerator for as long as possible, and then in coolers/cool boxes) until vials are just about to be punctured.
- Vials should be kept upright in their box.
- Vials should be kept away from direct sunlight to prevent prolonged light exposure.
- **AstraZeneca/COVISHIELD vaccine must not be frozen.**
- Cumulative storage time of an **opened vial** at room temperature must not exceed 6 hours.
- **Open vials** can be re-refrigerated for up to 48 hours, but total cumulative storage time once punctured must not exceed 48 hours. For example, if a vial is punctured and kept at room temperature for 4 hours it could be returned to the refrigerator for a total of 44 hours. If a cumulative 48 hours is reached, the vial must be discarded.

### Use:

- AstraZeneca/COVISHIELD must not be reconstituted, mixed with other medicinal products, or diluted.

**AstraZeneca Product Monograph:** <https://www.azcovid-19.com/content/dam/azcovid/pdf/canada/ca-pm-azd1222-en.pdf>

**COVISHIELD Product Monograph:** <https://covid-vaccine.canada.ca/info/pdf/covishield-pm-en.pdf>

Any questions or requests for revision  
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List of Amendments

Date	Section	Description	Author