

COVID-19 Moderna Vaccine

Shipping, Storage, Thawing and Use Guidelines

A. Formulations

- Monovalent (XBB 1.5)
 - Royal Blue Vial Cap/Coral Blue Label 0.1mg/ml

B. Shipping:

- Must be shipped frozen between -15°C to -50°C, **or**;
- Unopened and punctured¹ vials may be shipped thawed at 2°C to 8°C for a maximum of 12 **cumulative** hours.
- [Single-dose preloaded syringes](#) may be transported in exceptional circumstances.
- 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.

C. Storage:

- Can be stored frozen at -15°C to -50°C until written expiry
- Can be stored at 2°C to 8°C for up to 30 days if intact, i.e. vial not punctured by needle (not exceeding written expiry)
- Do not store on dry ice or below -50°C.
- Unpunctured vials can be stored at room temperature (8° to 25°C) for up to 24 hours.
- Punctured vials can be stored at refrigerator or room temperature (2° to 25°C) for up to 24 hours.
- Protect from light.

D. Thawing:

Temperature of Thawing Environment	Thawing time
2°C to 8°C (refrigerator)	2 hours
15°C to 25°C (room temperature)	45 minutes

The previous recommendation to allow the vaccine to sit for at least 15 minutes at room temperature prior to administration is intended for patient comfort only and is not a requirement.

¹ Guidance on the transport of punctured Moderna vials has been drawn from <https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/covid-19/info-by-product/moderna/downloads/Moderna-Vaccine-Transport.pdf>.

Once thawed, DO NOT refreeze.

E. Use:

Discard vial within 24 hours following first puncture of stopper.
Vials can be punctured 20 times maximum.

F. Resources:

- [Moderna XBB 1.5](#) (Health Canada)

Any questions or requests for revision
of this document should be sent to
IBCOC_Operations@phsa.ca

List of Amendments

Date	Section	Description	Author
June 15, 2021	B, D	Update to stability information	Keren Massey
June 15, 2021	C	Updated to include information on 14-dose vials	Keren Massey
June 15, 2021	E	Section added	Keren Massey
June 21, 2021	A	Guidance added on the transport of thawed, punctured vials	Keren Massey
August 13, 2021	C	Removed guidance on letting vaccine sit for 15 minutes at room temperature prior to administration.	Keren Massey
Jan 6, 2022	D	20 puncture maximum added	Calvin Kaila
July 20, 2022	A,B,C,D,E	Update to include information about royal blue cap	Calvin Kaila
July 22, 2022	D,E	Update to vaccine name to include age	Calvin Kaila
Sept 12, 2022	A,C,D,E,F	Update to include Moderna Bivalent information	Chad Cardoso
Jan 20, 2023	D	Update to include new bivalent formulation	Calvin Kaila
Sept 15 2023	A, D	Update to include XBB formulation. Original and Original/Omicron formulation removed	Calvin Kaila
Oct 30 2023	A	Monovalent and Original/OmicronBA4/5) formulations removed	Calvin Kaila