

# COVID-19 Moderna Vaccine

## Shipping, Storage, Thawing and Use Guidelines

### A. Shipping:

- Must be shipped frozen between -15°C to -25°C, **or**;
- Unopened and punctured<sup>1</sup> 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.

### B. Storage:

- Can be stored frozen for up to 7 months at -15°C to -25°C, or for 6 months frozen + 30 days refrigerated.
- Can be stored at 2°C to 8°C for up to 30 days if intact, i.e. vial not punctured by needle.
- Do not store on dry ice or below -40°C.
- Unpunctured vials can be stored at room temperature (8° to 25°C ) for up to 24 hours.
- Punctured vials can be stored at room temperature (8° to 25°C ) for up to 24 hours.
- Protect from light.

### C. Thawing:

Temperature of Thawing Environment	10-Dose Vial Thawing Time	14-Dose Vial Thawing Time
2°C to 8°C (refrigerator)	2.5 hours	3 hours
15°C to 25°C (room temperature)	1 hour	1.5 hours

*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.*

**Once thawed, DO NOT refreeze.**

### D. Use:

Discard vial within 24 hours following first puncture of stopper.

<sup>1</sup> 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>.

## E. Resources:

[Moderna Product Monograph](#) (Health Canada)

Any questions or requests for revision  
of this document should be sent to  
[IBCOC\\_Operations@phsa.ca](mailto:IBCOC_Operations@phsa.ca)

## List of Amendments

<b>Date</b>	<b>Section</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Author</b>
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