

COVID-19 Vaccines

Expiration and Beyond Use Dates (BUDs)

Determining when a vaccine expires is a critical step in proper storage, handling, and reporting. The expiration date should always be checked prior to preparing or administering vaccine. Expired vaccine should NEVER be used. As additional stability data become available, the expiration dates for some products may change. Follow the instructions below to determine the expiration date of COVID-19 vaccines.

- Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine: This vaccine product has an expiration date located on the vaccine vial.
- Moderna COVID-19 vaccine: The expiration date is NOT printed on the vaccine vial or carton. To obtain the expiration date of the lot number received, providers can scan the QR code located on the vial or carton or access the manufacturer's [website](#) directly, enter the lot number and the expiration date will be displayed.
- Janssen/Johnson & Johnson COVID-19 vaccine: The expiration date is NOT printed on the vaccine vial or carton. To determine the expiration date:
 - Scan the QR code located on the outer carton, or
 - Call 1-800-565-4008, or
 - Go to vaxcheck.jnj/, enter the lot number and the expiration date will be displayed.

For Moderna and Janssen/J&J COVID-19 vaccines it is important to write the expiration date on the carton or vials since it is not printed. Orders of Moderna and Janssen/J&J received in NYSIIS will contain a placeholder date of 12/31/2069. The actual expiration date must be updated in NYSIIS and CIR as well, as part of inventory management. Vaccines should always follow a first in, first out process in which vials that have the earliest expiration date are used first. CDC's <https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/covid-19/downloads/expiration-tracker.pdf> can help providers keep track of the expiration date by lot number. Vaccine inventory should be managed using a "first in first out" tracking process to limit the potential for wastage.

Beyond Use Dates (BUDs)

All vaccines have expiration dates, and some routinely recommended vaccines have a beyond use date (BUD), which is calculated based on the date the vial is first punctured and the storage information in the package insert. Whenever a vial of COVID-19 vaccine is moved to storage conditions that affect BUD or a multidose vial is punctured, label the vial(s) with the beyond use date/time. The BUD must never exceed the labeled expiration date. Once the vaccine has reached its expiration or beyond use date/time, unused doses must be disposed of as medical waste and [reported in NYSIIS as wastage](#) or in CIR as wastage. A summary of COVID-19 vaccine beyond use dates and resources are listed below.

- Pfizer: [Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine Beyond-Use Date \(BUD\) Tracking Labels for Vaccine During Freezer or Refrigerator Storage](#)
 - Freezer (-25° C to -15° C): Two weeks
 - Refrigerator (2° C to 8° C): 31 days
 - After Puncture: 2° C to 25° C for up to 6 hours
- Moderna: [Moderna COVID-19 Vaccine Beyond-Use Date \(BUD\) Tracking Label for Vaccine During Refrigerator Storage](#)
 - Refrigerator (2° C to 8° C): 30 days
 - After Puncture: 2° C to 25° C for up to 12 hours
- Janssen/J&J: [Janssen COVID-19 Vaccine Preparation and Administration Summary](#)
 - After Puncture: 2° C to 8° C up to 6 hours OR 9° C to 25° C for up to 2 hours