



Department
of Health

PFIZER-BIONTECH COVID-19 VACCINE

THERMAL SHIPPING CONTAINER DRY ICE REPLENISHMENT INSTRUCTIONS

The Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine has not been approved or licensed by FDA, but has been authorized for emergency use by FDA under an Emergency Use Authorization (EUA) to prevent Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19). The emergency use of this product is only authorized for the duration of the declaration that circumstances exist justifying the authorization of emergency use of the medical product under Section 564(b)(1) of the FD&C Act unless the declaration is terminated or authorization revoked sooner.

Please see EUA Fact Sheet for Healthcare Providers Administering Vaccine (Vaccination Providers) including Full EUA Prescribing Information available at

<https://www.fda.gov/media/144413/download>.

Thermal Shipping Container Dry Ice Replenishment Instructions

THERMAL SHIPPING CONTAINER TEMPORARY STORAGE REPLENISHMENT INSTRUCTIONS

Follow the instructions and requirements outlined in this booklet when using the thermal shipping container for temporary storage of the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine. The thermal container can accommodate up to three replenishments of dry ice in five-day intervals. Providers receiving containers from the Ohio Department of Health (ODH) warehouse should note the first dry ice replenishment has been initiated and that the first five-day interval is underway.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

- **24 hours:** The thermal shipping container is qualified with a minimum of 20 kg of dry ice pellets (10 mm–16 mm pellets). If you are using the thermal shipping container as temporary storage, the container must be opened, inspected, and replenished with dry ice within **24 hours** of receipt.
- For the thermal shipping container to maintain the ultra-low temperatures required, it is recommended that the thermal shipping container itself be stored at 15° to 25° Celsius (59° to 77° Fahrenheit).
- **To help maintain the level of dry ice and the temperature of the vaccine product:**
 - **2x/Day:** It is recommended that the thermal shipping container not be opened more than **2 times a day**.
 - **3 Minutes:** The thermal shipping container should not be opened for more than **3 minutes at a time**.
 - **5 Days:** The thermal shipping container should be refreshed with dry ice **every 5 days or as required to maintain proper storage temperature**.
 - If more frequent openings are necessary, more frequent dry ice replenishment will be required. Ensure that the thermal shipping container is refreshed at the end of business on days when the vaccination site will be closed the following day, such as weekends or holidays.
- After use, the thermal shipping container and the temperature-monitoring device must be returned to ODH to help Pfizer fulfill its commitment to reusable resources.

CAUTION: Use of dry ice in confined spaces (small rooms or walk-in coolers) and/or poorly ventilated areas can result in depletion of oxygen, causing asphyxiation. Exposed skin should be protected from contact with dry ice. Wear safety goggles or safety glasses with side shields. To ensure appropriate controls are in place, review the [Dry Ice Safety Data Sheet](#) BEFORE accessing the contents from the thermal shipping container and consult with your Occupational Health Organization.

Current as of December 12, 2020. For the most up-to-date brochure, visit www.cvdvaccine.com.

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1 Before opening the thermal shipping container, make sure the area in which you are working has proper ventilation. Use of dry ice in confined spaces, such as small rooms, walk-in coolers, and/or poorly ventilated areas, can result in depletion of oxygen, causing asphyxiation.

2 In a well-ventilated area, open the thermal shipping container by cutting the tape on the outside of the box. Lift the foam lid.



3 The dry ice bag is visible. While wearing waterproof insulated gloves, lift out the dry ice bag.



4 Fill any low areas in the side compartments of the thermal shipping container with dry ice pellets until completely filled, so that it is equal with but does not exceed the top edges of the box that holds the vial trays.



5 Reinsert the dry ice bag on top of the box that holds the vial tray. Then fill the dry ice bag to the top with dry ice (do not overfill). The container will hold a maximum of 50lbs of dry ice. Close the dry ice bag, ensuring that it is flush with the top edge of the thermal shipping container to maintain the required



6 Insert the probe end of the data logger inside the foam container and close the foam lid. Completely close the thermal shipping container and seal with tape. To maintain required temperature, it is critical that the container lid is flush and properly taped shut. Store in a well-ventilated location.

