Transporting Comirnaty® (Pfizer BioNTech) and Spikevax® (Moderna) Vaccines
Quick Reference Guide
NHS REGIONAL TEAMS MAY INSTRUCT YOU TO UNDERTAKE MUTUAL AID.
THIS GUIDE OUTLINES PRACTICAL STEPS TO TAKE.

Transporting vaccine from freezer (thaw in transit)

- Remove carton from freezer and immediately assign a post-thaw shelf life.
  • Comirnaty – 1 month
  • Spikevax – 30 days

N.B. Comirnaty is stored at ultra low temperatures which require ULT PPE to be worn.
See SOP VH4 (Comirnaty) and SOP MDH3 (Spikevax)

- Option 1: cool box
  • Pack securely into cool box (see SPS cold chain guide)
  • Cool box should be validated or contain a thermometer or datalogger
  • Do not pack together with vaccines that have already been thawed

- Option 2: refrigerated transport
  • For Comirnaty, put carton in another container so that the very cold carton can be carried safely.
  • Keep separate (at least 30cm) from vaccines that have already been thawed.

Transport to vaccination centre

- The vials must be held in an upright position to minimise movement in transport.
- Vaccines are fragile and must be handled with great care.
- Check cumulative time in transport does not exceed 12 hours. This includes all previous journeys since thawing. NB. there are no limits on the number of journeys within 12 hours.
- Hand over vaccine directly to authorised person at the vaccination centre.
- Report any temperature excursions or incidents (e.g. dropped vaccines) to the authorised person at the vaccination centre.

Transporting thawed vaccine

- Identify if stock has been previously transported, and for how long. Post-thaw maximum cumulative time in transport is 12 hours.

- Option 3: cool box
  • Pack carton into validated cool box (see SPS cold chain guide)
  • Cool box should be validated or contain a thermometer or datalogger
  • Do not pack together with frozen vaccines.
  • Vaccines must be protected from ice pack (if used)
  • Keep separate (at least 30cm) from frozen vaccines

- Option 4: refrigerated transport