

	<b>Name of Activity:</b> Transportation of Fridge Stable COVID-19 Vaccines		
	<b>Role Performing Activity:</b> Saskatchewan Health Authority, Athabasca Health Authority, Northern Intertribal Health Authority, First Nations and Inuit Health Branch Staff Ministry of Health		
<b>WORK STANDARD</b>	<b>Location:</b> COVID-19 Immunization Manual		<b>Department:</b> Population Health Branch
	<b>Document Owner:</b> Vaccine Management Team		<b>Region/Organization where this Work Standard originated:</b> Ministry of Health Population Health Branch
	<b>Date Prepared:</b> 2021-03-16	<b>Last Revision:</b> 2023-06-27	<b>Date Approved:</b>

**Work Standard Summary:** This work standard outlines the guidelines for transportation of COVID-19 vaccines that can be stored, handled and transported at 2°C - 8°C, including Novavax (Nuvaxovid®). Specific vaccine packing considerations are also outlined.

Essential Tasks:	
1.	<p><b>Transportation Recommendations</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Vaccine-specific storage, handling and transportation requirements are outlined in the <a href="#">Saskatchewan Immunization Manual</a>, Chapter 10: Biological Products.</li> <li>• For additional information on vaccine storage and handling at 2°C - 8°C, refer to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ The Ministry of Health’s COVID-19 Cold Chain Management work standard on the <a href="#">COVID-19 Immunization Manual</a>.</li> <li>○ The <a href="#">Saskatchewan Immunization Manual</a>, Chapter 9: Management of Biological Products</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Additional information on packing vaccine for transport, can be found in the <a href="#">SHA COVID-19 Vaccine Information For Healthcare Workers website</a> in the Packing and Temperature Monitoring of Vaccine work standard.</li> </ul>
2.	<p><b>Prior to Redistributing the Vaccine</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Confirm the number of vaccine doses that are required at the receiving site.</li> <li>• Ensure the receiving site has the appropriate storage equipment, ability, and capacity to store vaccine in a temperature monitored refrigerator.</li> <li>• Ensure the receiving site has the appropriate ancillary supplies and education/information materials to support vaccine storage and administration.</li> <li>• Ensure each receiving site has patient vaccine handouts including vaccine fact sheets, vaccine screening questions, and after care sheets.</li> <li>• Communicate clearly with each receiving site on exact time of vaccine delivery to ensure their readiness.</li> </ul>
3.	<p><b>Guidelines for Transporting Fridge Stable COVID-19 Vaccines</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Transport vaccine between 2° C to 8° C.</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Place the vaccine directly from the refrigerator into a vaccine insulated container/cooler (validated to transport vaccine or medications at 2°C - 8°C). Follow local/organizational work standard for packing vaccine bag.</li> <li>○ The container must be able to maintain vaccine between 2° C to 8° C for at least the duration of the intended transport.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

### Essential Tasks:

- A label saying DO NOT FREEZE or equivalent should be on the transport container.
- A label saying FRAGILE-HANDLE WITH CARE or equivalent should be on the transport container.
- If transportation of single or multiple vials (out of the original carton/box) must be conducted, refer to #5.
- Add a temperature monitoring device to the centre of the cooler.
  - It is strongly recommended to use a data logger for temperature monitoring. Program the device to alert cold chain excursion under 2° C and over 8° C.
  - If a data logger is not available, a minimum/maximum thermometer may be used. It is important to manually reset the minimum and maximum temperatures to the current temperature immediately prior to being used for transport.
- **For open vial transport**, ensure the vaccine will be utilized within the stability time period outlined in the Ministry of Health’s COVID-19 Cold Chain Management work standard in the COVID-19 Immunization Manual:  
<https://www.ehealthsask.ca/services/Manuals/Pages/COVID-19.aspx>
- Upon arrival at destination, immediately place the vaccine in a temperature monitored refrigerator between 2°C and 8°C. **DO NOT FREEZE.**
- Immediately analyze the temperature monitoring device for a cold chain excursion outside of 2°C to 8°C.
  - If a cold chain excursion occurred, follow the Ministry of Health’s COVID-19 Vaccine Cold Chain Work Standard found in the COVID-19 Immunization Manual:  
<https://www.ehealthsask.ca/services/Manuals/Pages/COVID-19.aspx>

4. **Vaccine Packing Considerations**

- Vaccine packing should occur quickly where the vaccines are taken directly from the fridge and immediately placed into the shipping container/cooler.
- Ensure the fridge door is kept closed as much as possible during packing to avoid fridge temperature excursion over 8°C.
- Pick vaccine with the shortest expiry date (if applicable).
- If vaccine vials are separated from a full box, refer to #5.

5. **Packing Vaccines from Original Packaging**

- It is a Health Canada requirement that a licensed healthcare professional (e.g., registered pharmacist, registered nurse) oversee the packing of vaccines into new packages (e.g., cardboard boxes, opaque or amber bags) from their original packages (written communication from Health Canada to the Ministry of Health, 2020-11-13).
  - For requirements and skills competency for non-licensed healthcare staff, refer to the *Repacking Vaccines from Their Original Packaging* work standard in the COVID-19 Immunization Manual: <https://www.ehealthsask.ca/services/Manuals/Pages/COVID-19.aspx>
- Vaccine must be placed into a package that will protect the vaccine from light (e.g. opaque or amber bag).
- Remove the exact or rounded up vaccine doses from their original package and place them directly into the new package under the required refrigerated storage conditions.
- Securely seal the new package.
- Place a label stating the vaccine name, number of vial/syringe units and corresponding doses, and a reference to the product monograph onto the new packaging. (COVID-19 vaccine specific labels are created by the Ministry of Health and will be posted in the COVID-19 Immunization Manual: <https://www.ehealthsask.ca/services/Manuals/Pages/COVID-19.aspx>)

### Essential Tasks:

- The package containing the vial(s) should be placed in insulation or bubble wrap or similar padding to protect the product.  
**NOTE:** Ensure dunnage material (e.g. bubble wrap) is conditioned to 2°C to 8°C prior to placing in container/cooler with vaccine.
- The newly prepared package(s) are stored under the required storage conditions until they are ready to be shipped.