

COVID-19 vaccines may have an extended expiration date, or the box may be labeled with a date of manufacture. This makes the dates represented on the box or vial an unreliable reference for documentation. Additionally, mRNA COVID-19 vaccines have a Beyond Use Date (BUD) after being moved out of their permanent storage into a refrigerator. The intersection of these two dates may cause unnecessary concern over vaccine viability.

Expiration Dates:

- Expiration dates are associated with a vaccine's lot number.
- Unlike other vaccines, COVID-19 vaccines may reference the date of manufacture or initial, but not current, expiration date. **Do not refer to the box or the vial to determine the expiration of a COVID-19 vaccine.**
- For documentation purposes, the Vaccine Inventory Management System (VIMS) will reflect correct expiration dates, though there may be a lag if an expiration date extension is recent.
- If concerned about an expiration date, see the below guidance and reach out to AHS.VDHImmuneProgram@vermont.gov before making any determination on viability.

Beyond Use Date (BUD):

- The BUD begins when an mRNA vaccine (Moderna and Pfizer)¹ is removed from permanent storage and into the refrigerator.
- BUD is not associated with a vaccine lot number and will not be documented in VIMS. **All tracking and documentation of a vaccine's BUD is the practice's responsibility.**
- BUD of the vaccine will most often determine when a vaccine is no longer viable but is not an expiration date. During administration, document the expiration date.
- The BUD may have already started if you receive the vaccine via a transfer from the Depot or another practice. Always check and label appropriately.
- Administering vaccines past the BUD **may result in the need to revaccinate patients, reducing public confidence in vaccination.** To help prevent this:
 - ✓ Clearly label the correct BUD for any vaccine received.
 - ✓ Document the BUD on any vaccine you transfer to another office.
 - ✓ Assign staff to take responsibility for reviewing the BUD of the COVID-19 vaccine inventory.

Beyond Use Time:

All COVID-19 vaccines have Beyond Use Times associated with dilution/vial puncture. Once the Beyond Use Time passes, the vaccine must be disposed of.

¹ The permanent storage for Janssen vaccine is in the refrigerator and therefore BUD does not apply.

Vaccine	Expiration Details	BUD details
<p>Adult Pfizer (Purple Cap)</p> <p>(No longer available to order)</p>	<p>The expiration date on the vial/box has since been extended. Check VIMS for current expiration.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BUD is 1 month after removal from ultra-cold. • This vaccine is only available as an inter-practice transfer. The transferring entity is responsible for the communication and labeling of the BUD. Do not refreeze.
<p>Adult Pfizer (Gray Cap)</p> <p>300 dose minimum direct shipment</p>	<p>Date on vial/box is the manufacture date. Check VIMS for current expiration.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BUD is 10 weeks after removal from ultra-cold. • Transfers from Depot: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Will be at refrigerated temperature. Do not refreeze. ○ BUD will be clearly labeled on the box and may be less than 10 weeks. • Direct shipments: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Will arrive packaged with dry ice. ○ Place directly in the refrigerator unless ultra-cold storage is available. Do not place in freezer. ○ BUD starts when placed in refrigerator. The practice is responsible for labeling and tracking.
<p>5-11 Pediatric Pfizer (Orange Cap)</p> <p>100 dose minimum direct shipment</p>	<p>Date on vial/box is the manufacture date. Check VIMS for current expiration.</p>	
<p>Moderna</p> <p>100 dose minimum direct shipment</p>	<p>Date on vial/box is the manufacture date. Check the Moderna website for current expiration: www.modernatx.com/covid19/vaccine-eua/providers/vial-lookup</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BUD is 30 days after removal from a standard freezer. • Transfers from the Depot: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Will be at refrigerated temperature. Do not refreeze. ○ BUD will be clearly labeled on the box and may be shorter than the 30 days. • Direct shipments: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Will arrive frozen and may be put in an approved freezer, if available. Vaccine will be viable through its expiration date. ○ If a freezer is not available, BUD starts when placed in refrigerator. The practice is responsible for labeling and tracking.
<p>Janssen</p> <p>100 dose minimum direct shipment</p>	<p>Date on vial/box is the manufacture date. Check the Janssen (J&J) website for current expiration: www.vaxcheck.jnj</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The permanent storage for Janssen vaccine is in the refrigerator and therefore BUD does not apply.

EUAs:

Adult Pfizer (Gray Cap): www.fda.gov/media/153715/download
 5-11 Pediatric Pfizer (Orange Cap): www.fda.gov/media/153714/download

Moderna: www.fda.gov/media/144637/download
 Janssen: www.fda.gov/media/146304/download