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.VDHImmunizationProgram@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.

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\(^1\) The permanent storage for Janssen vaccine is in the refrigerator and therefore BUD does not apply.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Vaccine</th>
<th>Expiration Details/EUAs</th>
<th>BUD details</th>
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</thead>
</table>
| Adult Pfizer (Gray Cap)       | Date on vial/box is the manufacture date. Check VIMS for current expiration. 12+ Pfizer (Gray Cap): [www.fda.gov/media/153715/download](http://www.fda.gov/media/153715/download)   | • **BUD is 10 weeks** after removal from ultra-cold.  
  • Transfers from Depot:  
    o Will be at refrigerated temperature. Do not refreeze.  
    o BUD will be clearly labeled on the box and may be less than 10 weeks.  
  • Direct shipments:  
    o Will arrive packaged with dry ice.  
    o Place directly in the refrigerator unless ultra-cold storage is available. **Do not place in freezer.**  
    o BUD starts when placed in refrigerator. The practice is responsible for labeling and tracking. |
| 300 dose minimum direct ship  |                                                                                             |                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| 5-11 Pediatric Pfizer (Orange Cap) | 5-11 Pediatric Pfizer (Orange Cap): [www.fda.gov/media/153714/download](http://www.fda.gov/media/153714/download)                                                                                     |                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| 100 dose minimum direct ship  |                                                                                             |                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| 6m-4y Pediatric Pfizer (Maroon Cap) | 6m-4y Pediatric Pfizer (Maroon Cap): [www.fda.gov/media/159312/download](http://www.fda.gov/media/159312/download)                                                                                     |                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| 100 dose minimum direct ship  |                                                                                             |                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| Moderna (all formulations)    | Date on vial/box is the manufacture date. Check the Moderna website for current expiration: [www.modernatx.com/covid19vaccine-eua/providers/vial-lookup](http://www.modernatx.com/covid19vaccine-eua/providers/vial-lookup) | • **BUD is 30 days** after removal from a standard freezer.  
  • Transfers from the Depot:  
    o Will be at refrigerated temperature. Do not refreeze.  
    o BUD will be clearly labeled on the box and may be shorter than the 30 days.  
  • Direct shipments:  
    o Will arrive frozen and may be put in an approved freezer, if available. Vaccine will be viable through its expiration date.  
    o If a freezer is not available, BUD starts when placed in refrigerator. The practice is responsible for labeling and tracking. |
| 100 dose minimum direct ship  | 12+ Moderna (lite blue border): [www.fda.gov/media/157233/download](http://www.fda.gov/media/157233/download)                                                                                                  |                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| 6-11 Moderna (purple border):  | [www.fda.gov/media/159308/download](http://www.fda.gov/media/159308/download)                                                                   |                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| 6m-5y Moderna (magenta border): | [www.fda.gov/media/159307/download](http://www.fda.gov/media/159307/download)                                                                   |                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| Janssen                       | Date on vial/box is the manufacture date. Check the Janssen (J&J) website for current expiration: [www.vaxcheck.jnj](http://www.vaxcheck.jnj)                                                            | • The permanent storage for Janssen vaccine is in the refrigerator and BUD does not apply.                                                                                                                |
| 100 dose minimum direct ship  | Janssen: [www.fda.gov/media/146304/download](http://www.fda.gov/media/146304/download)                                                            |                                                                                                                                                                                                          |