

Ministry of Health

Chapter 4: Storage and Handling of Novavax's COVID-19 Vaccine

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The scope for this chapter includes information pertaining to the storage and handling of the Novavax COVID-19 Vaccine.

Health care providers and organizations should also follow the:

- [COVID-19 Vaccine Storage and Handling Guidelines](#)
- [Vaccine Storage Handling Guidelines](#);
- Individual product monographs on the [Government of Canada website](#).

In addition, health care providers and organizations who have questions should contact their [local public health unit](#) or the ministry of health at vacpro@ontario.ca

Storage and Handling of Novavax's COVID-19 Vaccine

Storage and Handling

Table 1. Storage and Handling for Novavax COVID-19 Vaccine

Storage Condition	Novavax
Unopened, multidose vial	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Store and transport in refrigerated conditions between +2°C to +8°C until expiry date per health Canada • Do not freeze. • Protect from light (e.g., store vial in original packaging).
Opened, multidose vial	<p>After first puncture, use the vial within:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 6 hours cumulative when stored between +2°C to +25°C • After this time, the vial must be discarded and wasted doses recorded.

Transport Conditions for Novavax's COVID-19 Vaccine

Transport time vaccine movement should not exceed 12 hours of cumulative time. This includes a limit of 3 hours by air and 9 hours by road should be adhered to.

Table 2. Janssen vaccine transport by storage condition

Storage Condition	Novavax
Vaccine During Transport (by vehicle on ground, air, or water)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• +2°C to +8°C• Do not pack with frozen vaccines• Do not allow contact with frozen packs• Protect from agitation• Label cooler as "Fragile", indicating contents are temperature sensitive

Transport of Open-Vials or Syringes Containing Novavax

While not recommended as routine practice, in exceptional circumstances a single dose of Novavax may be transported in a syringe.

The vaccines should be transported prior to puncture, but in the event that transport of a punctured vial or pre-drawn syringe is required to provide access to vaccination or prevent wastage the following should be followed/considered:

- Adherence to the must use by date/timing of the product following first puncture of a vial:
 - Novavax
 - 6 hours post first puncture stored between +2°C to +25°C.
 - a pre-filled syringe is stable for 6 hours between 2°C and 25°C
- The number of times an opened vial or pre-drawn syringe is transported should be minimized to prevent risk of product microbial contamination and adherence to the must use by date/timing.

- The vaccine does not contain a preservative, therefore special attention should be paid to handling and packaging to prevent contamination.

Exceptional circumstances could include situations in which a few doses are needed to support the immunization and series completion of small numbers of individuals residing in congregate settings (i.e., one or two residents) and for those who are home bound (e.g., those who may be unable to attend a community-based clinic due to physical limitations). When at all possible, it is recommended that unpunctured vials of vaccine be transported and the entire vial of vaccine administered in one location over transporting syringes filled with vaccine.

It is recommended that vaccine is transported in a syringe as once a vial has been punctured the air pressure in the vial will have been changed and the potential for agitation (physical stress) of the vaccine is more likely.

Example of vial or pre-drawn syringe and container labels:

Novavax Inc nuvaxovid COVID-19 Vaccine (0.5 mL) IM solution

Facility name and phone number:

Quantity of vials / syringes:

Date prepared & Time to discard:

Lot #:

Initials of preparer:

Vaccine Storage Post Temperature Excursion or Unit Malfunction

Novavax can be transported in refrigerated conditions between +2°C to +8°C.

If an alternative storage facility cannot be identified within a reasonable timeframe, place the vaccine in the insulated container with appropriate packaging material and digital temperature monitoring devices and record the temperature at the facility by:

- Labelling the insulated containers; and
- Continuing to monitor the temperatures inside the insulated container at 30-minute intervals using a temperature monitoring device that allows temperature viewing without opening the insulated container (e.g., in/out thermometer).