

Ministry of Health

Chapter 3: Storage and Handling of Novavax's COVID-19 Vaccines

Version 3.0 – December 22, 2023

Highlights of changes:

- Addition of the Novavax XBB.1.5 formulation

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

The intended audience for this guidance document includes all providers that are:

- Storing, distributing and/or administering COVID-19 vaccines;
- Involved in the assessment of temperature excursions, including the vaccine return process;
- Additional resources available:
- [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 vaccinesupplyandlogistics@ontario.ca

Storage and Handling of Novavax's COVID-19 Vaccines

Storage and Handling

Table 1. Storage and Handling for NUVAXOVID COVID-19 Vaccines

Storage Condition	Novavax	Novavax XBB.1.5
Unopened, multidose vial	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Store refrigerated between +2° to +8°C for a maximum of 9 months. • Store in the original carton to protect from light • Do not freeze 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Store unopened vials between +2° to +8°C for a maximum of 12 months. • Store in the original carton to protect from light • Do not freeze
Opened, multidose vial	<p>After first puncture, use the vial within:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 12 hours cumulative when stored between +2°C to +8°C • 6 hours if stored at room temperature (up to +25°C) • After this time, the vial must be discarded and wasted doses recorded 	<p>After first puncture, use the vial within:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 12 hours post first puncture when stored between +2°C to +8°C • 6 hours if stored at room temperature (up to +25°C) • After this time, the vial must be discarded and wasted doses recorded

Transport Conditions for Novavax's COVID-19 Vaccine

Table 2. Novavax vaccine transport by storage condition

Storage Condition	Novavax Original and XBB
Vaccine During Transport (by vehicle on ground, air, or water)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• +2°C to +8°CDo not pack with frozen vaccinesDo not allow contact with frozen packsProtect from agitationLabel cooler as "Fragile", indicating contents are temperature sensitive

Transport of Syringes Containing Novavax

When at all possible, it is recommended that Novavax COVID-19 vaccine be transported in an unpunctured vial and that the entire vial be administered in one location rather than transporting syringes filled with vaccine.

However, while not suggested as routine practice, in exceptional circumstances, diluted (if applicable) vaccine maybe transported in a syringe.

- Novavax has conducted limited studies to understand the stability of diluted vaccines
- Special attention should be given to handling and packaging of the syringe to prevent contamination

Exceptional circumstances may 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).

It is important to adhere to the 'must use by' date/timing of the product following first puncture of a vial.

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).