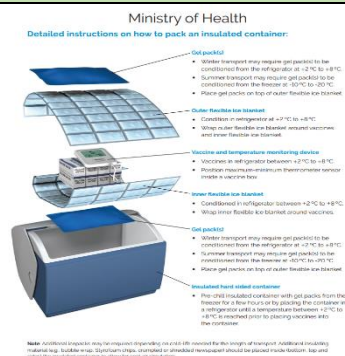




How to Condition a Cooler and Pack COVID-19 Vaccines

SUPPLIES NEEDED

- Insulated Hard-Sided Cooler
- Min/Max Thermometer
- 2 Ice Packs or Gel Packs
- 1 Ice Blanket (stored in the freezer)
- 2 Fridge Conditioned Ice Blankets (stored at fridge temperature: +2°C to +8°C)
- Insulation Material (ie: Bubble Wrap, Newspaper etc.)



STEPS TO CONDITION A COOLER

1. Remove 1-2 ice packs/gel packs from the freezer, place directly in the cooler and close lid for at least 30 minutes.
 - a. Place the thermometer probe of the min/max thermometer inside the cooler. Ensure the probe is not in direct contact with the ice packs.
2. Remove 1 ice blanket from the freezer and let sit at room temperature for 30 minutes to condition.
 - a. Once conditioned, the ice blanket should produce condensation and the perimeter of each frozen pocket should be thawed.
3. After 30 minutes, once the cooler's temperature is below +8°C:
 - a. Place a layer of bubble wrap over the two ice packs.
 - b. Place two fridge conditioned ice blankets on top of the bubble wrap.
 - c. Ensure the thermometer probe is placed between the 2 fridge conditioned blankets.
4. Place the conditioned ice blanket on top of the fridge conditioned ice blankets.
5. Allow the cooler to sit to stabilize. The cooler should condition and stabilize at a temperature between +2°C to +8°C prior to packing COVID-19 vaccines.



❖ **Freezing episodes happen very easily in all coolers, usually within the first 2 hours after packing vaccines.**

HOW TO PACK COVID-19 VACCINES

1. Ensure the cooler temperature is between +2°C to +8°C prior to packing any COVID-19 vaccines.
2. Ensure the contents of the cooler are packed in the following order:
 - a. 1-2 Ice packs
 - b. Bubble wrap
 - c. 1 Fridge conditioned ice blanket
 - d. COVID-19 vaccines and the min/max thermometer probe
 - i. Ensure the vaccines are packed securely to prevent agitation. Insulation material (newspaper, bubble wrap) may be added around the vaccines loosely to secure the vaccines while allowing cool air circulation.
 - e. 1 Fridge conditioned ice blanket
 - f. 1 Conditioned ice blanket
 - g. Add newspaper or bubble wrap as needed to fill the void at the top of the cooler.
3. Once the COVID-19 vaccines are packed in the cooler, ensure the min/max thermometer is reset to reflect the temperature of the cooler while the COVID-19 vaccines are being stored.
4. Clearly label the outside of the hard-sided cooler storing COVID-19 vaccines with the following: "Fragile: Handle with Care, Do Not Drop".
5. Refer to the [COVID-19: Vaccine Storage and Handling Guidance](#) and the [Vaccine Storage and Handling Guidelines](#) for further information.

RESOURCES

Ministry of Health (2022). *COVID-19: Vaccine Storage and Handling Guidance*. Retrieved from https://www.health.gov.on.ca/en/pro/programs/publichealth/coronavirus/docs/vaccine/vaccine_storage_handling_pfizer_moderna.pdf

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