

# Covid -19 Vaccine Distribution

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Supply chain

## DISTRIBUTION PROCESS

Since the first doses of COVID-19 vaccines began shipping across the country in December, the U.S. government has made steady progress in its effort to make more doses available to the American public. As manufacturing increases for current vaccines and new ones enter the market – Supply chain distribution companies was fully prepared to manage the larger volume of vaccines and the ancillary supply kits needed to administer them.

From a distribution perspective, to stay on target to meet the government's plans to ultimately distribute hundreds of millions of frozen and refrigerated vaccine doses.

But getting to this point didn't happen overnight.

It took months of broad and thorough planning to build the right infrastructure, processes, and partnerships to achieve success from the early days to the moment vaccine availability began to accelerate. There were extensive measures to maintain the safety and efficiency of the vaccine supply chain. And while the government makes all decisions about where, when and how many vaccine doses and ancillary supply kits we ship, companies were able to turn around those requests in a timely manner and within the specified guidelines established by the manufacturers.

Packing one-dose vaccine inside specially designed coolers that can maintain the refrigerated temperature requirements of 2-8 degrees Celsius was the first requirement. These shipping coolers were stored and ready for use for months. COVID-19 were refrigerated vaccines and stored, packed in a similar manner. Along with the Vaccine there was a list of Ancillary Products from Approved Manufactures which was supposed to accompany the vaccine

## VACCINE ANCILLARY SUPPLY KITS

Pharma Distributor's business was responsible for producing and distributing ancillary supply kits for all COVID-19 vaccines at the direction of the government.

Ancillary supply kits include:

Alcohol prep pads

Face shields and surgical masks for vaccinators

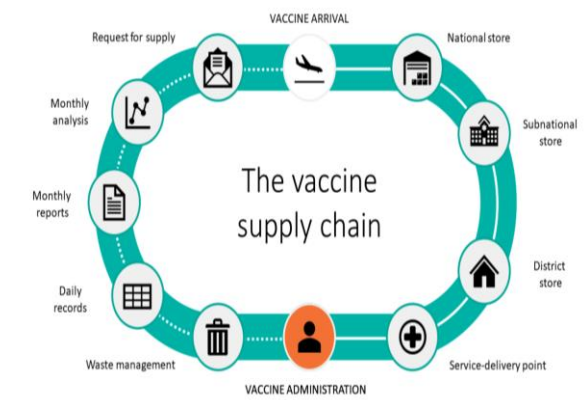
Needles and syringes

Vaccine administration sheet for healthcare providers

Vaccination record and reminder cards

For COVID-19 vaccines that require reconstitution with diluent at the point of administration, other needed supplies will also be included

After they're packed, all vaccines were then moved to the quality inspection station (pictured above). The coolers were not sealed until they go through one more inspection to double check that the orders and quantities are accurate. The boxes are then sealed and moved down to manifest where our partners, either UPS or FedEx, scan the orders into their system and place labels on the boxes.



## THE FINAL JOURNEY

From Distribution Centers to Vaccine Administration Sites

After the coolers are packed, the shipments will typically go out within 24 hours from when the orders were first received. Advanced tracking devices will be used for all COVID-19 vaccine shipments to provide the highest level of visibility within the carriers' delivery networks.

Finally, the hospitals, pharmacies or other care facilities will receive the vaccines and become responsible for storing the doses as indicated by each manufacturer.

#### REFERENCE

- [1] <https://www.who.int/teams/immunization-vaccines-and-biologicals/essential-programme-on-immunization/supply-chain>
- [2] <https://www.mckesson.com/Our-Stories/Inside-Our-COVID-19-Vaccine-Distribution-Operation/>
- [3] <https://www.mckesson.com/About-McKesson/Newsroom/Press-Releases/2020/McKesson-Distribute-Future-COVID-19-Vaccines-Operation-Warp-Speed/>