



WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT
of HEALTH SERVICES

Infection Preventionist Lunch and Learn

August 11, 2026

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Series Objectives

- Encourage learning, growth, and networking.
- Provide non-regulatory education and information.
- Discuss topics relevant to new infection preventionists (IPs).

Disclaimer

- The Wisconsin HAI Prevention Program is non-regulatory.
- There is no affiliation with any facilities or products.
- All content is based on current guidance and best practices.



WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT
of HEALTH SERVICES

Best Practices for Vaccine Storage and Handling

Jennifer Kuhn BSN, RN, CIC

Agenda

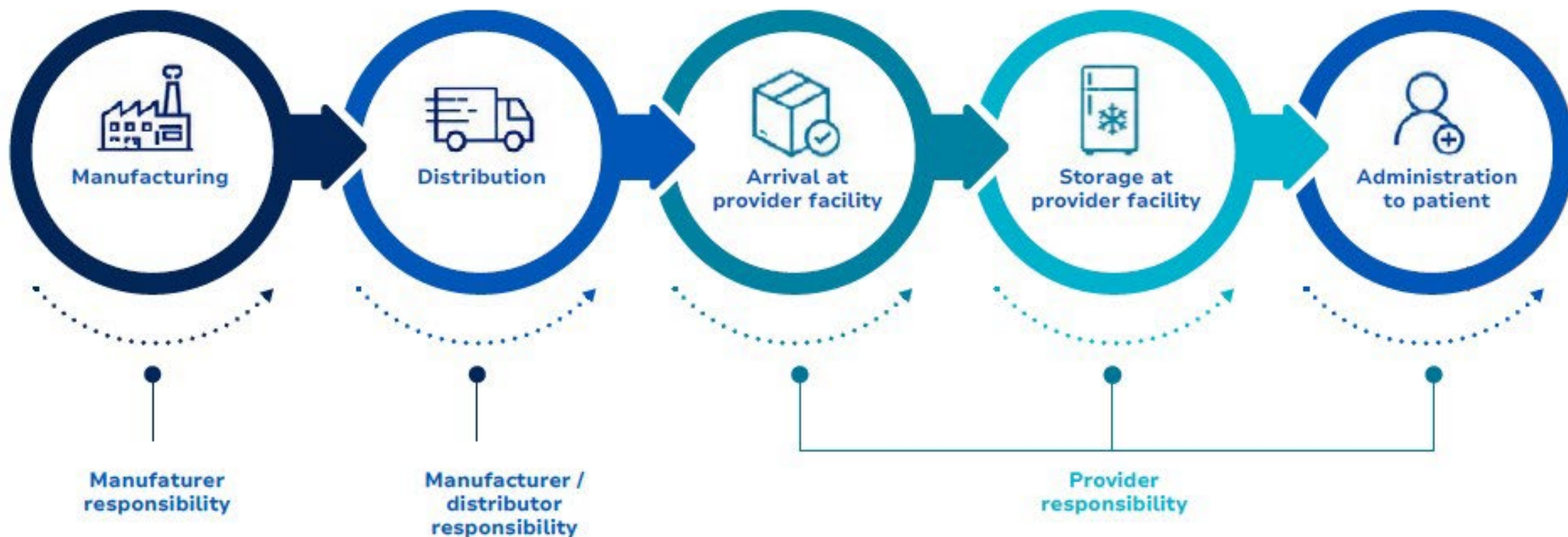
Safe storage and handling

- Describe what the cold chain is and why it's important.
- Review proper storage practices.

Safe injection practices

- Review aseptic technique.
- Discuss proper preparation.

Vaccine Cold Chain Flowchart



Source: CDC (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention)

Role of the IP

The IP should:

- Be aware of standard operating procedures (SOPs).
- Work closely with the facility's vaccine coordinator.
- Create a written emergency plan.

Vaccine Refrigerator and Freezer

- Refrigerators or freezers should be vaccine or pharmaceutical grade.
- A household-grade refrigerator can be used for refrigeration only.
- Dormitory-style units should be avoided.



Temperature Ranges

Refrigerators:

Between 2°C
and 8°C.

Freezers:

Between -50°C
and -15°C.

Ultra-cold freezers:

Between -90°C
and -60°C.

Temperature Monitoring

- Monitor using a digital data logger.
- Ensure appropriate placement and calibration for best results.

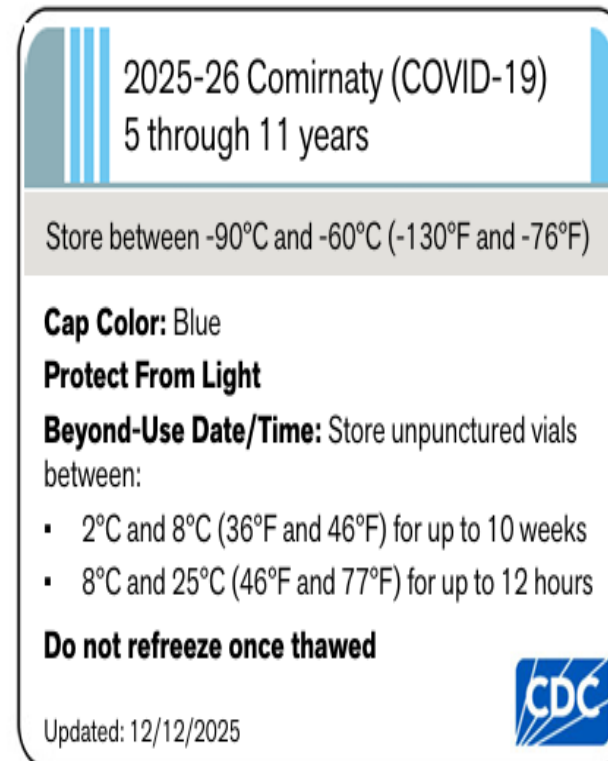
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Storage Labels

Labels help to:

- Minimizes vaccination errors.
- Quickly identify vaccines.
- Determine beyond-use date.

2025-26 COVID-19 Vaccine Labels



2025-26 Comirnaty (COVID-19)
5 through 11 years

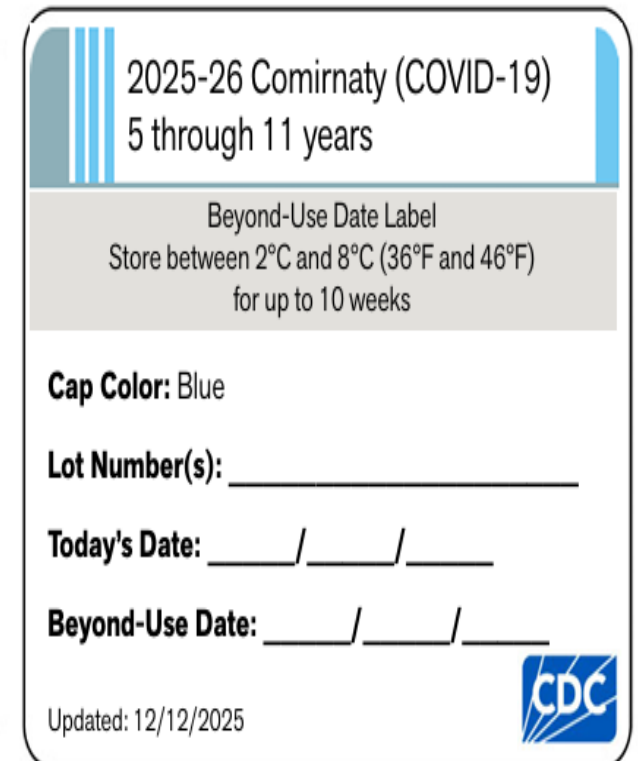
Store between -90°C and -60°C (-130°F and -76°F)

Cap Color: Blue
Protect From Light
Beyond-Use Date/Time: Store unpunctured vials between:

- 2°C and 8°C (36°F and 46°F) for up to 10 weeks
- 8°C and 25°C (46°F and 77°F) for up to 12 hours

Do not refreeze once thawed

Updated: 12/12/2025 



2025-26 Comirnaty (COVID-19)
5 through 11 years

Beyond-Use Date Label
Store between 2°C and 8°C (36°F and 46°F)
for up to 10 weeks

Cap Color: Blue
Lot Number(s): _____
Today's Date: ____/____/____
Beyond-Use Date: ____/____/____

Updated: 12/12/2025 

Injection safety is a core
component of standard
precautions.



Safe Injection Practices

Safe injection practices include:

- Aseptic technique.
- One and only.
- Single and multi-dose vials.
- Sharps safety.

Aseptic Technique

- Dedicate a preparation area.
- Perform hand hygiene.
- Disinfect rubber septum.



One and Only



Always

- Use needles and syringes for only one patient.
- Enter vials with a new needle and syringe every time.



Never

- Administer medication from the same syringe to multiple patients.
- Enter a medication vial with a used syringe or needle.

Single-Dose Vials

- Access only once.
- Do not pool leftover contents.
- Discard after use.



Multi-Dose Vials

- Use sterile needles and syringes.
- Store away from treatment area.
- Follow the directions on each vaccine for beyond-use date.
- Discard if sterility is in question.

DHS and CDC Project Firstline Fact Sheet

HOW DO I SAFELY USE A **MULTI-DOSE VACCINE VIAL?**

You vaccinate patients to protect them. Correctly using multi-dose vials keeps your patients safe from germs that can spread from contaminated vials, needles, and syringes.

CHECK THAT YOU ARE USING MULTI-DOSE
VACCINE VIALS SAFELY **EVERY TIME.**



- ✓ Always prepare multi-dose vial injections away from patient care spaces in a clean designated area
- ✓ Clean your hands before touching the vial
- ✓ Check the label to make sure it is a multi-dose vaccine vial
- ✓ Check to make sure the vaccine is **not expired or "beyond use"**
- ✓ Look and see if the vaccine appears the way the vaccine maker tells you it should
- ✓ Use **brand-new, sterile needles and syringes** for every vaccine dose
- ✓ Disinfect the **top** part of the vial (the vial stopper) with an alcohol prep pad—**every time**
- ✓ Make sure the **top is dry** before sticking the needle in it
- ✓ When you first put a needle in, **write the date and time** on the label
- ✓ Follow the vaccine maker's **instructions for storage**
- ✓ **Never "pool" doses** (combine partial doses from multiple vials to make one dose for a patient)

Sharps Safety

Ensure:

- Proper personal protective equipment (PPE) is worn.
- Safety devices are used.
- Needles are not re-capped.
- Sharps are disposed immediately after use.

Questions?

Contact Information

Jen Kuhn



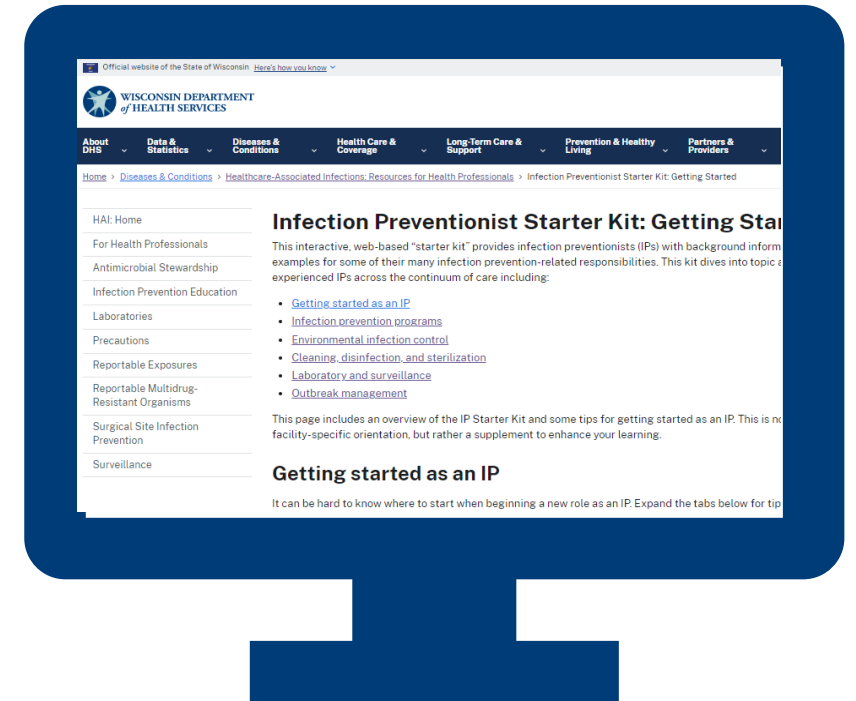
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IP Starter Kit

- Interactive, web-based [resource](#)
- Background information, resources, and templates
- Covers topics applicable to IPs across care settings



HAI Prevention Program Contacts



Email: dhswhaipreventionprogram@dhs.wisconsin.gov



Phone: 608-267-7711



Website: www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/hai/contacts.htm

Send your questions and topic suggestions.

Submit your ideas to Ashley O'Keefe at
ashley.okeefe@dhs.wisconsin.gov.

Upcoming Lunch and Learn Session

Date: Tuesday, September 8, 2026

**Topic: Infection Prevention and Control Hot
Topics**