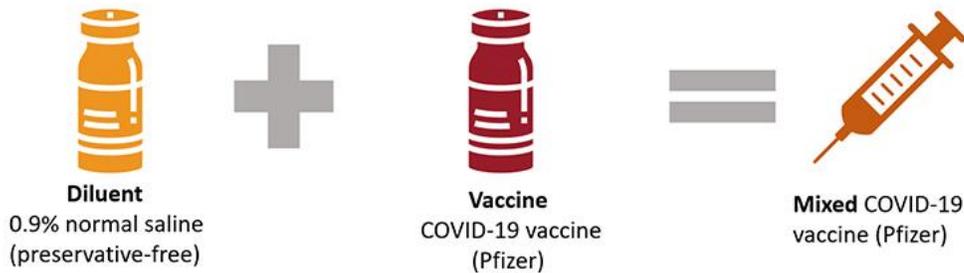


## COVID-19 vaccine preparation (Pfizer)

### Part 1- Pfizer BioNtech Covid-19 vaccine vial preparation



1. Remove vaccine from freezer to thaw, or from fridge and allow it to come to room temperature.
  - a. This may take 15-30 minutes. Visually inspect vaccine vial, once thawed it should appear a clear liquid.
2. Gently invert the vaccine vial *10 times* to mix the vaccine suspension. DO NOT SHAKE.
3. Remove the top of the vaccine vial and cleanse the stopper with a new alcohol swab. Set aside and allow to dry.
4. Remove the top of the 0.9% normal saline (sodium chloride) diluent and cleanse the stopper with a new alcohol swab. Set aside and allow to dry.
5. Attach a 21G needle to a 3 mL syringe. Using aseptic technique withdraw **1.8 mL** 0.9% normal saline.
6. Dilute the vaccine vial by injecting the 1.8 mL of 0.9% normal saline slowly down the side of the vial.
7. Before withdrawing needle from the vaccine vial, ensure the vial pressure is equalized by allowing 1.8 mL air to return to the syringe.
  - a. This is an important step to ensure that vaccine wastage is minimized and allow easier preparation of the vaccine doses.
  - b. Depending on the pressure in the vaccine vial the air may push back into the syringe without any help.
  - c. In other circumstances the equalizing needs to be done manually by placing the needle tip into the air of the vial and pulling up 1.8 mL air in the syringe.
8. Dispose of the 0.9% normal saline vial, the needle and the syringe.
9. Gently invert the vaccine vial *10 times* to mix the diluted vaccine suspension. DO NOT SHAKE.
10. Check the vaccine vial for particulates or discoloration. Diluted vaccine should appear an off-white suspension.

<p>1. Remove the vaccine from the freezer or refrigerator. Allow the vaccine to come to room temperature. Check the expiration date of the vaccine and diluent.</p>		<p>No more than 2 hours at room temperature</p>
<p>2. With the vaccine at room temperature, gently invert the vial 10 times to mix. <b>DO NOT SHAKE.</b></p>		<p>If the vial is shaken, discard the vaccine.</p>
<p>3. Using a new, sterile alcohol prep pad for each vial, wipe off the stoppers of the diluent and vaccine vials. Withdraw 1.8 mL of 0.9% sodium chloride (normal saline, preservative-free) diluent into a mixing syringe.*</p> <p><b>DO NOT USE BACTERIOSTATIC NORMAL SALINE OR OTHER DILUENTS TO MIX THE VACCINE.</b></p>		<p>Diluent is in a single-use vial. After mixing vaccine, DISCARD diluent vial.</p>
<p>*Use a 21-gauge or narrower needle.</p>		
<p>4. Inject 1.8 mL of diluent in the mixing syringe into the vaccine vial.</p>		
<p>5. Using the mixing syringe, remove 1.8 mL of air to equalize the pressure in the vaccine vial. Remove the mixing syringe from the vial and discard in a puncture-resistant, biohazard container.</p>		
<p>6. Gently invert the vial 10 times to mix the vaccine. <b>DO NOT SHAKE.</b> The vaccine will be an off-white suspension.</p>		<p>If the vial is shaken, discard the mixed vaccine.</p>

Please note:

- Record the date and time of dilution on the vial and/or provided labels
- Keep mixed vaccine at room temperature and administer within 6 hours
- Do not put mixed vaccine back in freezer

**Part 2- Pfizer BioNtech Covid-19 vaccine dose preparation**

1. Cleanse rubber stopper of vaccine vial with new alcohol swab and let dry.
2. Attach needle (23G-25G, 1 ¼ - 1”) to a 1 mL syringe.
  - a. It may be helpful to loosen the plunger
3. Using aseptic technique carefully withdraw **0.3 mL** of diluted vaccine.
4. Make any adjustments for air bubbles while needle is in the vial.
5. Recap the needle with original cap. Have the final dose double checked for accuracy and quality.

6. Label the syringe, indicating expiry date and time.
7. Repeat steps for each additional dose, rotating puncture site on the vaccine vial each time. Most vials will yield 5 vaccine doses.
  - a. Sometimes a 6<sup>th</sup> dose can be obtained depending on the needle and syringe used.

Please note:

- Do not put predrawn vaccine back into the vial.
- Do not mix partial doses from two or more different vials.
- It is recommended to use the same needle to withdraw *and* administer the vaccine dose.

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