

US allows Pfizer vaccine in fridge for a month

May 20 2021



Credit: Pixabay/CC0 Public Domain

The Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine can be stored at refrigerator temperatures for up to a month in the United States, the country's health

regulator announced Wednesday, in a change expected to help distribution of the shot.

The US Food and Drug Administration said it had made the decision "based on a review of recent data submitted by Pfizer," and will allow vials of the [vaccine](#) to be stored at refrigerator temperatures of 2-8 degrees Celsius (35-46 degrees Fahrenheit) for up to one month.

The vials were previously only allowed to be kept at such temperatures for five days.

"This change should make this vaccine more widely available to the American public by facilitating the ability of vaccine providers, such as community doctors' offices, to receive, store and administer the vaccine," said Peter Marks, director of the FDA's Center for Biologics Evaluation and Research.

The European Medicines Agency On Monday also approved the storage of the Pfizer vaccine in fridges for up to a month.

The FDA had already relaxed conditions for the vaccine's storage in February, allowing it to be kept "at conventional temperatures commonly found in pharmaceutical freezers for a period of up to two weeks" rather than ultra-low freezer [temperature](#) of -80 to -60 degrees Celsius.

© 2021 AFP

Citation: US allows Pfizer vaccine in fridge for a month (2021, May 20) retrieved 30 June 2024 from <https://medicalxpress.com/news/2021-05-pfizer-vaccine-fridge-month.html>

This document is subject to copyright. Apart from any fair dealing for the purpose of private study or research, no part may be reproduced without the written permission. The content is provided for information purposes only.