The journey of a vaccine on American Airlines

Shipping vaccines takes expertise and coordination. The steps in a vaccine's journey are identical to passenger travel: check in, board, fly and arrive.

1. **Check In**
   - Vaccines bound for an American Airlines flight depart manufacturing sites and arrive at one of the airline's 78 cargo terminals around the world via one of the airline's logistics partners.
   - American's certified cold chain experts closely monitor each vaccine's packaging.

2. **Board**
   - Vaccines are briefly kept in American's network of climate-controlled areas capable of maintaining temperatures of +25°C to -20°C.
   - Throughout the boarding process, team members at the Integrated Operations Center in Fort Worth, Texas, keep close watch on vaccine shipments around the world 24/7 to ensure they stay safe each step of the way.
   - Once aboard, vaccine shipments will have the space and temperature-controlled equipment, including dry ice needed for safe transportation.

3. **Fly**
   - Pilots are given special cargo briefings before each flight that has vaccines on board, including American's cargo-only flights. The airline has operated nearly 5,000 cargo-only flights since the beginning of the pandemic, helping to move millions of pounds of critical cargo.
   - American can deliver cold chain shipments around the globe to more than 150 cities in 46 countries.

4. **Arrive**
   - After pulling up to the gate, vaccines are safely transported to a cargo terminal, like American's 25,000-square-foot pharmaceutical facility at Philadelphia International Airport, the largest operated by an airline in the United States.
   - Doses of vaccine are picked up immediately or temporarily kept in a temperature-controlled space.