

TRANSPORTING REFRIGERATED VACCINES

The number of times vaccines are handled and transported should be minimized.

The provider should contact District/County nurses when vaccine is within 90 days of expiration for assistance with transfer.

Check three months of temperature logs before transferring vaccine between provider offices to assure vaccine is usable.

Vaccine is transported in the original box and it is critical that vaccine potency is protected by maintaining the cold chain at all times.

If vaccine is transported to an off-site clinic temperatures must be recorded hourly during transport and through-out the duration of the clinic.

Diluent should travel with its corresponding vaccine and never be frozen.

Materials for transport must be readily available at all times.

Cooler: The CDC recommends hard sided coolers or the reuse of original vaccine shipping containers. Enough coolers should be available to transport your typical supply of refrigerated vaccine. A label attached to outside of cooler should state “keep refrigerated”, vaccine type, quantity, date, time, and originating facility.

Temperature monitoring: The CDC recommends digital data loggers for all temperature monitoring. The buffered probe of the available monitoring device should be kept refrigerated. The date, time, and temperature must be recorded at beginning and end of transport when using a digital data logger. When using a thermometer, hourly documentation is necessary.

Coolant: The CDC recommends use of conditioned frozen water bottles. Frozen water bottles and cold packs should be prepped in freezer at all times in case of immediate need. Frozen water bottles are conditioned by placing in a sink of lukewarm water until the ice inside the bottle spins freely when rotated in your hand. Frozen cold packs must be conditioned at room temperature for two hours.

Insulating Materials: Premeasure: (2) pieces of corrugated cardboard and (2) one inch layers of bubble wrap or packing foam for each cooler. When using cold packs two inch layers of insulating materials are necessary.



HOW TO PACK VACCINE

1. Conditioned frozen water bottles or cold packs should be spread over the bottom of the cooler.
2. Completely cover conditioned frozen water bottles or cold packs with one sheet of corrugated cardboard.
3. Completely cover cardboard with at least one inch of bubble wrap or packing foam when using conditioned frozen water bottles and two inches of insulating material if using cold packs.
4. Vaccine is placed on top of insulating materials with the refrigerated buffered probe of the monitoring device nestled between the layers of vaccine and the temperature display is placed outside the cooler.
5. Completely cover vaccine with at least one inch of bubble wrap or packing foam.
6. Completely cover bubble wrap with one sheet of corrugated cardboard.
7. An additional layer of conditioned frozen water bottles or cold packs are added to the cooler.
8. If there is excess space fill the cooler to the top with packing materials to prevent shift.
9. Close lid and secure the temperature display to the lid of the container.
10. Temperatures between 35° F and 46° F will be maintained up to eight hours using this method if container is not opened or closed repeatedly.
11. At end of transfer, assure appropriate storage to a refrigerator that has maintained a temperature between 35° F and 46° F for at least 5 days.