

August 2019

2018 – 2019 Flu Season has ended



Please note that all influenza vaccine from the 2018-2019 flu season has expired. Providers are required to process **Return** forms for all **unused, unopened** flu vaccine as soon as possible. Detailed instructions can be found in [Section 6](#) of the online VFC Provider Handbook, under **Vaccine Return and Accountability**. For more information, providers can access the complete [VFC Provider Handbook](#) on the Vaccines for Children Program [homepage](#).

Please note that return labels may take up to 30 business days to process. **Do not fax return forms multiple times** as this may cause further delay in processing.

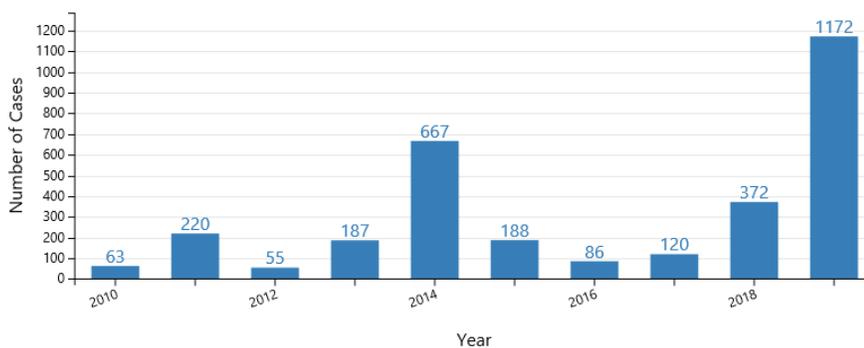
Measles Cases: Latest Numbers

As we progress through 2019, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) continues to update data on measles cases. According to the CDC, “from January 1 to August 1, 2019, **1,172**** individual cases of measles have been confirmed in **30** states. **This is an increase of 8 cases from the previous week.** This is the greatest number of cases reported in the U.S. since 1992 and since measles was declared eliminated in 2000.

The states that have reported cases to CDC are Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Florida, Georgia, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kentucky, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Missouri, New Mexico, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, **Pennsylvania**, Texas, Tennessee, Virginia, and Washington.”

Number of Measles Cases Reported by Year

2010-2019**(as of August 1, 2019)



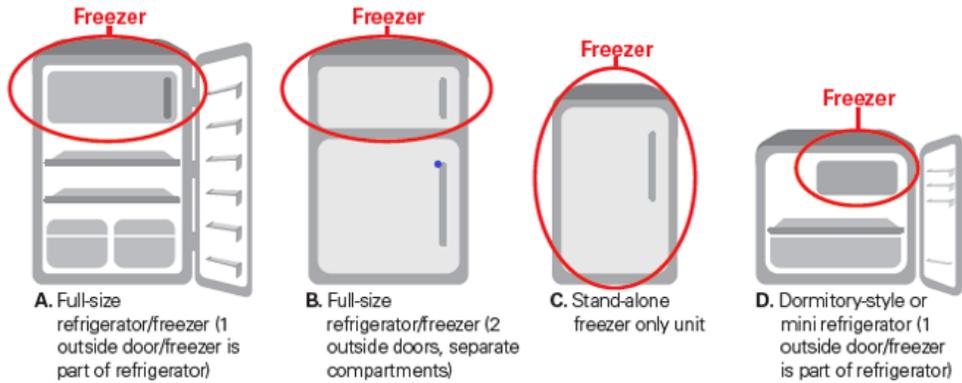
****Cases as of August 1, 2019. Case count is preliminary and subject to change. Data are updated every Monday.**

Measles is so contagious that if one person has it, up to 9 out of 10 people around them will also become infected if they are not protected. The virus can cause serious health complications, such as pneumonia or encephalitis, and even death. CDC continues to encourage parents to get their children vaccinated on schedule with the MMR vaccine. People 6 months and older should be protected with the vaccine before leaving on international trips.

We appreciate your help spreading this message. For additional information and resources on measles please visit the CDC's measles website (<https://www.cdc.gov/measles/index.html>).

Frozen Vaccine: Test Your Knowledge

1. Which of the following units is the best for storing frozen vaccines?



2. Circle the TRUE statements:

- A. It's okay to remove vaccines from the original boxes as long as they are stored in the freezer.
- B. Water bottles in the freezer are important to maintain consistent temperature.
- C. You can "eye test" frozen vaccines- if they look frozen, they are okay.
- D. Best practice is to leave 2 to 3 inches between vaccine containers and freezer walls.

3. Circle the vaccines that MUST be stored in the freezer:

- A. Varicella vaccine
- B. MMR vaccine
- C. Zoster vaccine live (ZVL)
- D. Recombinant Zoster vaccine (RZV)

4. One of the most common reasons that freezers are out of temperature range is:

- A. Staff doesn't shut the freezer door
- B. Power outage
- C. The freezer thermostat is not working properly
- D. The thermometer/DDL is broken or not working properly

5. Frozen vaccines should be stored between ____°C and ____°C.

Answers:

1. C— Stand-alone freezer is the best unit for storing frozen vaccines. NO vaccines—refrigerated or frozen—should ever be stored in a dormitory-style unit (D).
2. B and D are true statements. All vaccines should stay in their original boxes; proper temperature monitoring is very important and cannot be done by eye.
3. Varicella vaccine (A) and zoster vaccine live (ZVL) (C) MUST be stored in the freezer. MMR vaccine (B) can be stored in the refrigerator or freezer. Recombinant zoster vaccine (RZV) (D) MUST be stored in the refrigerator.
4. A—Believe it or not, staff not shutting the freezer door is one of the most common reasons a freezer is out of temperature range!
5. Frozen vaccines should be stored between -50° C and -15° C.

Please add the Vaccines For Children email to your address book: RA-pavfc@pa.gov