

TRANSPORTING FROZEN VACCINES BY NECESSITY

CDC and Merck do NOT recommend transporting varicella-containing vaccines.

Varicella-containing vaccine is to be transported in the original box in a portable freezer (preferred by CDC and Merck) or in a cooler with frozen water bottles for *less than one hour*.

Documentation of time and temperatures in the transport unit need to be monitored and documented at the beginning and end of transport.

Varicella-containing vaccine is to be transported in the original box in a portable freezer (preferred by CDC and Merck) or in a cooler with frozen water bottles for *more than one hour*.

Documentation of time and temperatures in the transport unit need to be monitored and documented at the beginning, end and every 30 minutes *during transport*.

If temperatures are maintained at the recommended range -58.0°F to $+5.0^{\circ}\text{F}$ (-50.0°C to -15.0°C), then no further action is needed.

If the temperature is outside of the recommended range of -58.0°F to $+5.0^{\circ}\text{F}$ (-50.0°C to -15.0°C) at any time, or if temperature in the transport unit is not documented, additional action is required.

1. Place vaccine in permanent freezer unit between -58.0°F to $+5.0^{\circ}\text{F}$ (-50.0°C to -15.0°C).
2. Label "DO NOT USE" and keep it separate by placing in a clearly labeled paper bag.
3. Call Merck to report. Include description of incident, time and temperature at beginning, during and end of transport; report vaccine type, expiration date and lot number. Inform Merck if this vaccine lot has been previously exposed to temperatures outside of recommended range -58.0°F to $+5.0^{\circ}\text{F}$ (-50.0°C to -15.0°C).
4. Merck National Service Center phone number is 1-800-672-6372. This number is open 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. If call is placed after hours, leave a message, and Merck will call back in the morning.
5. Merck will give guidance on the use of this vaccine. Document what Merck reports.
6. You must complete an incident report within five days and fax it to the PA VFC program at 717-214-7223.