

# TRANSPORTING REFRIGERATED VACCINE

## GUIDELINES FOR EMERGENCY VACCINE TRANSPORT AND SHORT-TERM STORAGE

CDC discourages any vaccine transport. Vaccines should only be transported when absolutely necessary. In an emergency situation, this procedure will keep refrigerated vaccines within the required temperature range for up to eight hours—depending on transport conditions. Call the vaccine manufacturer if you have concerns.

### ASSEMBLE PACKING SUPPLIES AND DOCUMENTS

#### 1 Hard-sided cooler

#### 2 Conditioned cold packs or conditioned frozen water bottles

Leave cold packs at room temperature until they perspire (1-2 hours). Frozen water bottles can be placed in lukewarm water until the ice block inside spins freely (fewer than 5 minutes).

#### 3 Insulating cushioning material

Use 2-inch layers of bubble wrap to prevent vaccines from freezing. Do NOT use packing peanuts or other loose material that might shift during transport.

#### 4 Data logger

Retrieve your backup device's buffered probe from the vaccine refrigerator and its digital display.

#### 5 Transport Log

Print a copy of the VFC "Refrigerated Vaccine Transport Log" (IMM-1132).

#### 6 Vaccine management plan

Find the alternate vaccine storage location in your practice's vaccine management plan.



### PREPARE FOR TRANSPORT

1 Contact the VFC Call Center or your VFC Field Representative for approval to transport vaccine.

2 Verify that the alternate vaccine storage location can store all of your vaccines.

3 Fill out the top portion of the transport log.

4 Remove vaccines from the refrigerator.

5 Fill out "Vaccine Inventory Information" on the transport log before proceeding.

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**PACK VACCINE AND PREPARE FOR TRANSPORT**

**1 Conditioned cold packs or conditioned frozen water bottles**



Place the conditioned items to cover only half of the bottom of the cooler.

**2 Bubble wrap & buffered probe**



Completely cover the cold packs/frozen water bottles and cooler bottom with a 2-inch layer of bubble wrap. Place the buffered probe on top of the bubble wrap—directly above a cold pack.

**3 Vaccines**



Layer vaccine boxes on the bubble wrap and probe. Do NOT let vaccine boxes touch the conditioned items.

**4 Bubble wrap**



Completely cover vaccines with another 2-inch layer of bubble wrap.

**5 Conditioned cold packs or frozen water bottles**



Place conditioned cold packs or conditioned frozen water bottles to cover only half of the bubble wrap. Do NOT let any vaccine boxes touch the conditioned items.

**6 Bubble wrap, transport log, display**



Layer bubble wrap to the top of the cooler. Close the cooler.

Record the temperatures before departure on the transport log.

Carefully attach the digital display and log to the top of the cooler.

**UNPACK VACCINE**

When you reach the alternate storage location, confirm the vaccine storage unit temperatures are within recommended ranges. Record the cooler temperature on the transport log before removing the vaccines.

**If the cooler temperature is:**

**OK (36.0–46.0°F or 2.0–8.0°C):** unpack and store vaccines in the alternate vaccine refrigerator.

**Out of range (Below 36.0°F/2.0C or above 46.0°F/8.0C):** label the vaccines “Do Not Use” and store them in the vaccine refrigerator; alert your supervisor; immediately report the excursion to SHOTS at [MyVFCvaccines.org](http://MyVFCvaccines.org).