

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).

Insulating cushioning material

3 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.

Data logger

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

Transport Log

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

Vaccine management plan

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



PREPARE FOR TRANSPORT

1 Contact the program contact or your CDPH 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 Record the Storage Unit Temperature and Time before departure on the bottom of the log.

5 Remove vaccines from the refrigerator.

6 Complete the vaccine inventory information on the transport log before proceeding.

VFC Call Center: (877) 243-8832

VFA/LHD 317: (833) 502-1245

SGF: Contact your LHD.



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 top of cooler then close.
Record Transport Container Temperature and Time before departure on transport log.
Carefully attach digital display and log to cooler.

UNPACK VACCINE

1. Confirm their vaccine storage unit temperatures are within recommended ranges.
2. Record the Storage Unit Temperature and Time upon arrival on the bottom of the transport log.
3. Record the Transport Container Temperature and Time upon arrival on the transport log before removing vaccines.

4. 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 at myCAvax.