

Transporting Frozen Vaccine

Guidelines for emergency transport of frozen vaccine

- Routine transport of varicella-containing vaccines (MMRV and varicella vaccine) is not allowed. These vaccines should only be moved in an emergency situation.
- Varicella-containing vaccines should be transported under frozen conditions below -15°C (5°F). If transport is necessary, it should be done using a portable freezer type unit that maintains temperatures below -15°C (5°F). However, vaccine may also be transported in a plastic or styrofoam cooler with sides at least 2 inches wide.
- Vaccines must be placed in a freezer immediately upon arrival to the backup facility. Ensure that the back up freezer unit has maintained temperatures below -15°C (5°F) for at least a minimum of 3-5 days.
- A vaccine log must be used to document and report the timeframe and temperature to which the vaccines were exposed during transport. Do not freeze diluent.
- Most emergencies happen suddenly. Be sure you are prepared for emergency transport of frozen vaccine by always having the following supplies available:
 - **Portable Freezer or Cooler with walls at least 2 inches wide**
 - **Frozen Cold packs**
 - **Thermometer**
 - **Packing materials (bubble wrap)**
 - **Frozen Vaccine Transport Log**

Pack Frozen Vaccine

1. Frozen Ice Packs

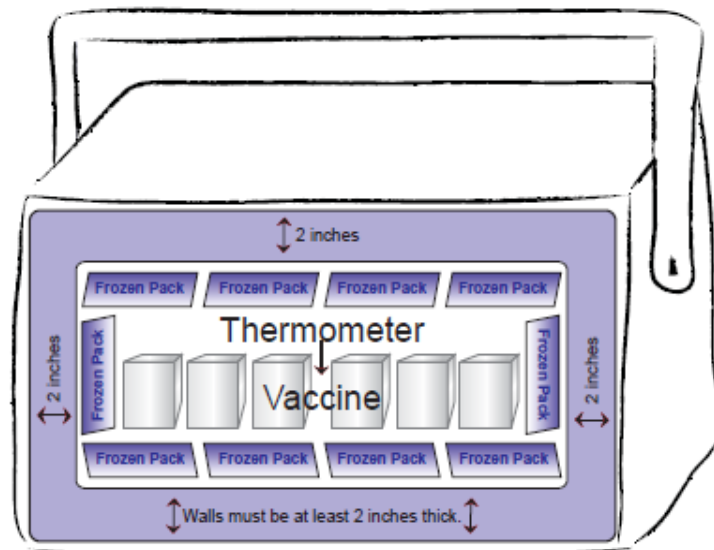
Spread a layer of frozen ice packs to cover the bottom of the cooler.
Do not use dry ice.

2. Vaccine

Stack layers of vaccine boxes directly on top of the frozen ice packs.

3. Thermometer

Place the thermometer probe with the top layer of vaccine.



4. Frozen Ice Packs

Spread another layer of frozen ice packs to cover the vaccine

5. Bubble Wrap

Fill the cooler with insulation material.

6. Display

Place the thermometer's digital display on top of the bubble wrap. Place the Frozen Vaccine Transport Log on top after documenting time of placement. Close the cooler.

- Monitor and document temperature of transport unit/cooler at beginning and end of transport.
- If temperatures are maintained at recommended range (below -15°C (5°F)), no further action is needed.
- If temperatures do not remain in recommended range at any time during transport:
 - Label "Do Not Use" and place in permanent freezer
 - Follow the guidelines set forth for determining vaccine viability (contact manufacturer), and/or contact a VVFC representative for further assistance at 800-568-1929.