

# Transporting Refrigerated Vaccine

## Guidelines for vaccine transport and short-term storage

- This procedure will keep all vaccines except varicella and MMRV within the recommended temperature range for up to 12 hours during transport and/or storage outside the primary storage unit (e.g. in the building, inside a car, etc.). If the storage cooler is exposed to temperatures as low as -4°F (e.g. inside a car trunk), this procedure will safeguard vaccines for up to 1 hour.
- If the vaccine will be stored in refrigerators after transport, be sure those refrigerators have maintained temperatures between 35°F and 46°F for at least 3 to 5 days.

### Assemble packing supplies and documents

1. **Cooler.** Use a hard-sided cooler. Attach a “Vaccines: Do Not Freeze” label to the cooler.
2. **“Conditioned” cold packs.** Condition frozen gel packs by leaving them at room temperature for 1 to 2 hours until the edges have defrosted and packs look like they’ve been “sweating.” Cold packs that are not conditioned can freeze vaccine. **Do not use dry ice.**
3. **Thermometer.** Prepare a VFC-compliant thermometer by placing it in the refrigerator at least 2 hours before you pack the vaccine. If you normally use a continuous-read monitoring system, you will need a portable thermometer for vaccine transport.
4. **Packing material.** Use two 2-inch layers of bubble wrap. Not using enough bubble wrap can cause the vaccine to freeze.
5. **Transport Log.** Complete a Refrigerated Vaccine Transport Log (IMM-1132) to document the duration and temperature monitoring information.



## Pack vaccine and prepare for transport

### 1. Cold packs

Spread conditioned cold packs to cover only half of the bottom of the cooler.



### 2. Bubble wrap

#### & Thermometer

Completely cover the cold packs with a 2-inch layer of bubble wrap. Then, place the thermometer/probe on top of the bubble wrap directly above a cold pack.



### 3. Vaccine

Stack layers of vaccine boxes on the bubble wrap. Do not let the boxes of vaccine touch the cold packs.



### 4. Bubble wrap

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



### 5. Cold packs

Spread “conditioned” cold packs to cover only half of the bubble wrap. Make sure that the cold packs do not touch the boxes of vaccine.



### 6. Form & display

Fill the cooler to the top with bubble wrap. Place the thermometer’s digital display and the Refrigerated Vaccine Transport Log on top. It’s okay if temperatures go above 46°F while packing.



## Unpack vaccine

**When you reach the destination site, record the temperature in the cooler on the Transport Log before removing the vaccine. If it is:**

- Between 35°F and 46°F (2°C and 8°C), unpack the vaccine and put it in the refrigerator.
- Below 35°F (2°C) or above 46°F (8°C), call your VFC Representative or the VFC Program immediately at 877-243-8832. Then label the vaccine “Do Not Use” and place it in the refrigerator.

