TRANSPORTING REFRIGERATED VACCINES

The number of times vaccines are handled and transported should be minimized.

Provider should contact District/County nurses when vaccine is within 90 days of expiration and for assistance with transfer.

If vaccine transportation to another location is required, it is critical that vaccine potency is protected by maintaining the cold chain at all times.

Check three months of temperature logs before transferring vaccine between provider offices to assure vaccine is usable.

If vaccine is being transported to an off-site clinic temperature must be recorded hourly during transport and through-out the duration of the clinic. Diluent should travel with its corresponding vaccine.







Cooler:

Hard plastic construction cooler is preferred. Two inch thick rigid Styrofoam vaccine shipping containers may also be used. Label attached to outside of cooler should list, vaccine type, refrigerated/frozen, quantity, date, time, and originating facility.

Thermometer:

Thermometer must be placed next to vaccine during transport but not in contact with the container or frozen packs. Date, Time, and Temperature must be recorded at beginning and end of transport.

Cold Packs:

Ice/frozen packs should be prepped in freezer at all times in case of immediate need. Cold packs should be conditioned at room temperature for two hours. If the cold packs are not left at room temperature for two hours they may freeze vaccine.

Packing materials or barriers:

Pack with at least 2 inches of bubble wrap, Styrofoam peanuts or crumbled brown packing paper between vaccine and cold packs.



HOW TO PACK VACCINE

- 1. Conditioned cold packs should be spread over only half the bottom of cooler to avoid freezing vaccine.
- 2. Completely cover cold packs with at least two inches of packing materials such as bubble wrap, packing peanuts, or brown paper.
- 3. Thermometer probe is placed on top of packing materials.
- 4. Vaccine is placed on top of thermometer and packing materials and should never be in contact with cold packs.
- 5. Completely cover vaccine with at least two inches of packing materials such as bubble wrap, packing peanuts, or brown paper.
- 6. Carefully place conditioned cold packs over only half the packing materials to avoid freezing vaccine.
- 7. Fill the cooler to the top with packing materials.
- 8. Temperatures between 35° F and 46° F will be maintained up to eight hours using this method.
- 9. At end of transfer, assure appropriate storage in a refrigerator that has maintained a temperature between 35° F and 46° F for at least 5 days.