Varicella Containing Vaccines - Special Instructions for Transport

CDC and the vaccine manufacturer do not recommend transporting varicella-containing vaccines. If varicella-containing vaccines must be transported, CDC recommends transport with a portable freezer unit that maintains the temperature between -58°F and +5°F (-50°C and -15°C). Portable freezers may be available for rent in some places. If varicella containing vaccines must be transported and a portable freezer unit is not available complete the following actions:

Varicella-containing vaccines may be transported at refrigerator temperature (36°F to 46°F, 2°C to 8°C) for up to 72 continuous hours prior to reconstitution.

1. Place a calibrated thermometer in the container used for transport as close as possible to the vaccine.
2. Record:
   a. the time the vaccine was removed from the storage unit and placed in the container
   b. temperature during transport
   c. document the time and temperature at the beginning and end of transport
3. According to the vaccine manufacturer, immediately upon arrival at the alternate storage facility:
   a. place the vaccine in the freezer between -58°F and +5°F (-50°C and -15°C). Any freezer that has a separate sealed freezer door and reliably maintains a temperature between -58°F and +5°F (-50°C and -15°C) is acceptable for storage of Varicella containing vaccines.
   b. document the time the vaccine was removed from the container and placed in the alternate storage unit.
   c. note that this is considered a temperature excursion, so contact the manufacturer at 1-800-637-2590 for further guidance.
4. Do not discard vaccine without contacting the manufacturer and/or the immunization program for guidance.

Use of dry ice is not recommended, even for temporary storage or emergency transport. Dry ice may subject varicella-containing vaccine to temperatures colder than -58°F (-50°C).