

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).