

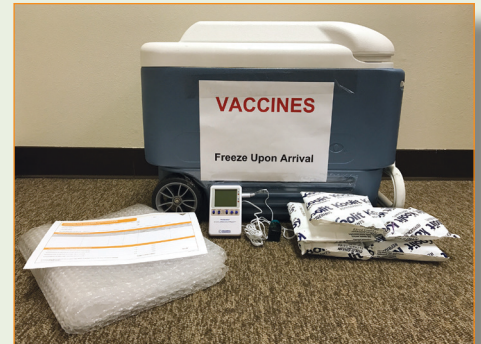
# Transporting Frozen Vaccines

## Guidelines for Emergency Vaccine Transport and Short-term Storage

Frozen vaccines (MMR, MMRV, Varicella, and Zoster) should never be transported except in an emergency and, if necessary, must be transported under frozen conditions. Do not freeze diluent for varicella-containing vaccines. Contact the VFC Call Center or your Field Representative for approval prior to vaccine transport.

### Assemble packing supplies and documents

1. **Cooler.** Use a hard-sided cooler or Styrofoam vaccine shipping container.
2. **Frozen cold packs.** NEVER USE DRY ICE. Keep enough frozen cold packs in your vaccine freezer to make two layers in the transport cooler.
3. **Insulating cushioning material.** Use 2-inch layers of bubble wrap to prevent vaccines from shifting. Do NOT use packing peanuts or other loose material that might shift during transport.
4. **Data logger.** Retrieve your backup device's buffered probe from the vaccine freezer and its digital display.
5. **Transport Log.** Retrieve a copy of the VFC "Frozen Vaccine Transport Log" (IMM-1116).
6. **Vaccine management plan.** Locate the alternate vaccine storage location in your practice's vaccine management plan.



### Prepare for transport

1. Verify that the alternate vaccine storage location can accommodate your vaccines.
2. Complete the top portion of the transport log.
3. Remove vaccines from the freezer.
4. Complete the "Vaccine Inventory Information" on the transport log before proceeding.

### Pack vaccines

#### 1. Frozen cold packs

Place a layer of cold packs to completely cover the bottom of the cooler. NEVER USE DRY ICE.



#### 4. Frozen cold packs

Spread another layer of frozen cold packs to completely cover the vaccines.



#### 2. Vaccines

Layer vaccine boxes directly on top of the frozen cold packs.



#### 5. Bubble wrap

Layer bubble wrap to the top of the cooler.



#### 3. Buffered probe

Place the buffered probe with the top layer of vaccines.



#### 6. Final steps

Layer bubble wrap to the top of the cooler. Record the temperatures before departure on the transport log. Close the cooler. Carefully attach the digital display and log to the top of the cooler.



### Unpack vaccines

When you reach the alternate storage location, confirm their vaccine storage unit temperatures are within recommended ranges. Record the cooler temperature on the transport log before removing vaccines. If the cooler temperature is **Below 5.0F (-15.0C)**: unpack and store vaccines in the alternate vaccine freezer. **Above 5.0F (-15.0C)**: label the vaccines "Do Not Use", store them in the vaccine freezer, and immediately call the VFC Program 800-404-3006 or your VFC Field Representative.