

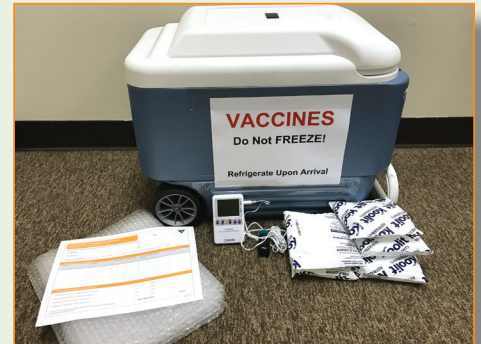
Transporting Refrigerated Vaccines

Guidelines for Emergency Vaccine Transport and Short-term Storage

CDC discourages routine vaccine transport because manufacturers do not generally recommend it or provide any guidance. In an emergency situation, this procedure will keep refrigerated vaccines within the required temperature range for up to eight hours—depending on transport conditions. Call the vaccine manufacturer if you have concerns. Contact the VFC Call Center or your VFC 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. **Conditioned cold packs or frozen water bottles.** Use cold packs conditioned by storing at room temperature until they perspire (1-2 hours). Condition frozen water bottles by placing them under lukewarm water until the ice block inside spins freely (less than 5 minutes).
3. **Insulating cushioning material.** Use 2-inch layers of bubble wrap to prevent vaccines from freezing. 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 refrigerator and its digital display.
5. **Transport Log.** Retrieve a copy of the VFC "Refrigerated Vaccine Transport Log" (IMM-1132).
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 refrigerator.
4. Complete the "Vaccine Inventory Information" on the transport log before proceeding.

Pack vaccine and prepare for transport

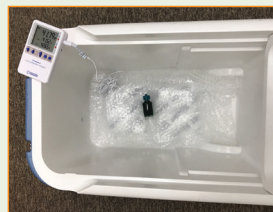
1. Conditioned cold packs or frozen water bottles

Place the conditioned items to cover only half of the bottom of the cooler.



2. Bubble wrap & buffered probe

Completely cover the conditioned items and cooler bottom with a 2-inch layer of bubble wrap. Place the buffered probe on top of the bubble wrap—directly above a cold pack.



3. Vaccines

Layer vaccine boxes on the bubble wrap and probe. Do NOT let vaccine boxes touch the cold packs or water bottles.



4. Bubble wrap

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



5. Conditioned cold packs or frozen water bottles

Place conditioned items to cover only half of the bubble wrap. Do NOT let any vaccine boxes touch the condition items.



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 vaccine

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 the vaccines. If the cooler temperature is **Between 35.0F and 46.0F (2.0C and 8.0C)**: unpack and store vaccines in the alternate vaccine refrigerator. **Below 35.0F (2.0C) or above 46.0F (8.0C)**: label the vaccines "Do Not Use", store them in the vaccine refrigerator, and immediately call the VFC Call Center at 877-243-8832 or your VFC Field Representative.