

# VACCINE STORAGE AND HANDLING (Post On Refrigerator)

It is important to follow proper vaccine storage and handling procedures. Failure to store and handle vaccines properly can reduce vaccine potency resulting in patients that are not fully protected from disease. This guidance will help ensure your vaccines are stored properly.

1. Never use outdated vaccines. Check expiration dates weekly & rotate stock so that the shortest dated vaccine is used first.
2. Have a calibrated thermometer with current Certificate of Traceability and Calibration in each storage unit.
3. Check & document temperatures on a temperature log in both refrigerator & freezer when you arrive and before you leave for the day.
4. Post “Do Not Unplug” signs at wall outlet & circuit breaker. Develop an emergency plan & if transport is needed, use a portable vaccine refrigerator and freezer. Note: MDHHS, CDC and Merck **does not** recommend transport of varicella-containing vaccine.
5. Keep vaccine in original boxes until it is time to use. Never store vaccines in refrigerator door or drawers. Never store food with vaccines.
6. For further information on storage and handling of vaccines & transport of vaccines refer to CDC’s Vaccine Storage and Handling Toolkit (June 2016) at: <http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/hcp/admin/storage/toolkit/storage-handling-toolkit.pdf>

VACCINE	ARRIVAL CONDITION <sup>2</sup>	STORAGE REQUIREMENTS
DTaP, DTaP-Hep B-IPV, DTaP-IPV, DTaP-IPV/Hib <sup>1</sup> , DT, Td, Tdap, Hep A, Hep B, Hep A-Hep B (combination), Hib (PedvaxHIB <sup>®</sup> , ActHIB <sup>®</sup> , Hiberix <sup>®</sup> ) <sup>1</sup> , 4vHPV, 9vHPV, IPV, MPSV4 <sup>1</sup> , MenACWY <sup>1</sup> , PCV13, PPSV23, IIV3/IIV4 (“flu shot”), cclIV4 (Flucelvax <sup>®</sup> ), RIV3 (Flublok <sup>®</sup> ), MenB (Trumenba <sup>™</sup> , Bexsero <sup>®</sup> ) and HibMenCY <sup>1</sup> (MenHibrix <sup>®</sup> )	Packed with refrigerant. Vaccine should not have been frozen.	Refrigerate immediately upon arrival at 36°F to 46°F (2°C to 8°C). <b>DO NOT FREEZE.</b> <b>Protect MenACWY<sup>1</sup>, Hib (Hiberix)<sup>1</sup>, IIV3/IIV4, cclIV4, RIV3, 9vHPV, 4vHPV, HibMenCY, &amp; MenB (Bexsero<sup>®</sup>) from light.</b> MenB (Trumemba <sup>™</sup> ) syringes recommended to lay flat on shelf to minimize re-dispersion time. <b>Diluent:</b> When packaged with vaccine, store together in the original box, in the refrigerator.
Rotavirus (RV1 <sup>1</sup> -Rotarix <sup>®</sup> & RV5-Rotateq <sup>®</sup> )	Packed with refrigerant. Vaccine should not have been frozen.	Refrigerate immediately upon arrival at 36°F to 46°F (2°C to 8°C). <b>DO NOT FREEZE.</b> <b>RV1<sup>1</sup> diluent:</b> May be stored separately at room temperature. <b>Protect both rotavirus vaccines from light.</b>
Measles, Mumps, Rubella (MMR) <sup>1</sup>	<u>VFC Vaccine shipped from McKesson:</u> Packed with refrigerant. May be frozen. <u>Vaccine shipped directly from Merck:</u> Packed with non-reusable frozen gel packs.	<b>Vaccine:</b> Refrigerate at 36°F to 46°F (2°C to 8°C) or freeze at -58°F to +5°F (-50°C to -15°C) upon arrival. <b>Diluent:</b> Store separately at room temperature or refrigerate at 36°F to 46°F (2°C to 8°C). <b>Protect MMR<sup>1</sup> from light at all times.</b>
Varicella <sup>1</sup> Zoster (HZV) <sup>1</sup> Measles, Mumps, Rubella, Varicella (MMRV) <sup>1</sup>	Packed with non-reusable frozen gel packs. Merck frozen vaccine shipper can maintain appropriate storage temperatures for up to 4 days for Varicella and Zoster vaccine. MMRV continues to be a 24 hour ship.	<b>Vaccine:</b> Maintain continuously in a frozen state at temperature -58°F to +5°F (-50°C to -15°C). <b>Diluent:</b> Store separately at room temperature or refrigerate at 36°F to 46°F (2°C to 8°C). <b>Protect from light at all times.</b>

<sup>1</sup> Use only the diluent that comes with the vaccine. For more information on vaccines that need to be reconstituted refer to: A Quick Reference to Combination and/or Reconstituted Vaccines: Childhood and Adult at [www.michigan.gov/immunize](http://www.michigan.gov/immunize) (this is included with the Quick Look handouts, listed under Provider Information)

<sup>2</sup> If you have questions about the condition of the vaccine at the time of delivery, immediately place the vaccine in recommended storage unit, label ‘do not use’ and contact the manufacturer. If you have questions about the condition of Vaccines for Children (VFC) vaccine, contact your local health department.

Please NOTE: This reference is for storage and handling informational purposes only. These recommendations are not a substitute for the package insert included with each biologic.