



## **NWT Protocol for Transportation of Vaccines**

The term “cold chain” refers to all the material, equipment, and procedures used to maintain vaccines within the required range of +2° to + 8° C at all times during handling, storage and transport. Breaks in the cold chain can result in decreased vaccine effectiveness, vaccine failures, and an increased rate of local reaction after vaccine administration. Vaccines are expensive and quantities produced can be limited. It is imperative that all those involved in the handling of vaccines take every precaution to ensure they are kept in optimal condition as described in the Canadian Immunization Guide.

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### Transportation of Vaccine Off Site Community Health Centers July 2006

- Place outer insulating blanket, refrigerator temperature, or refrigerated gel pack on the bottom of the cooler.
- Wrap the vaccines in the inner insulating blanket, refrigerator temperature.
- Place the ice pack in the tray (if available) on the top. For a larger cooler use two ice packs.
- Place a Warmmark and Coldmark Monitor in the cooler.
- Ensure that the lid is tight fitting and secured onto the cooler.

### Remember!

- Do not use vaccine that has not been maintained between 2 and 8 degrees Celsius.
- Always check expiry date prior to drawing up and administering vaccine.
- When storing vaccine in the refrigerator keep vaccine with the longest expiry date at the back and soon to expire products at the front.
- Always return multi-dose vials to the cooler or refrigerator immediately after drawing up required dose.
- Record the date of opening on the multi-dose vials and use within 30 days unless otherwise specified by manufacturer.
- If diluent is required for the vaccine, ensure that the diluent is kept at refrigerator temperature for 24 hours prior to being placed in the cooler. If the diluent has been kept at room temperature then transport it at room temperature.
- Protect reconstituted vaccines (MMR and Varicella) from light and use immediately after reconstituting.

Transportation of Vaccine Off Site  
**Packaging Configuration**  
Community Health Centers  
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