

Appendix E - Transporting and Tracking Vials of Moderna SPIKEVAX® and Pfizer BioNTech COMIRNATY® COVID-19 Vaccines from Regional Distribution Hubs to Vaccination Clinic Sites

Last updated: October 04, 2021

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COVID19 Vaccine Vial Inventory for Community Freezers or Vaccine Fridges Log (Appendix B):

This log is designed to track how many vials are added to and removed from each of the health centre freezers or vaccine fridges, by date and by authorized person. This log is self-explanatory and further guidance is not provided in [Appendix B](#).

COVID19 Vaccine Vial Tracking Log (Appendix C):

This log is designed to capture information on each vial at a vaccination clinic site including: who signed out each vial from the health centre, who the vial was assigned to at the clinic; and the number of doses given as well as the total wastage per vial. Guidance on using Moderna SPIKEVAX® and Pfizer-BioNTech COMIRNATY® COVID-19 Vaccine(s) Vial Tracking Log is provided in [Appendix C](#).

Transport into Territory:

Vaccine will be shipped as per the Federal, Provincial, and Territorial processes to either Rankin Inlet or Iqaluit. Pharmacy staff are responsible for ordering and receiving inventory in compliance with National Operations Centre (NOC) guidelines, including documenting cold chain, and for confirming the orders through the NOC contact.

Transport from Regional Hubs to Community:

Vaccine vials must be maintained at a temperature of **-25°C to -15°C** during transport directly from Regional Hubs to the health centre in a community. This can be achieved by transporting the vials in a portable freezer or in a Crêdo Cube. The Cube(s) is returned to the Regional Pharmacy after the vaccine is placed in the freezer or vaccine fridge in the first community and is never used to transport vials to a subsequent community. Pharmacy technicians pack the vaccine in the freezer or Crêdo Cube for transport to communities.

Planning for transport:

- Review the weekly distribution plan to identify the number of vials to be sent to each of the communities so an appropriate number is sent.
- Ensure each health centre has the appropriate storage equipment, ability, and capacity to store vaccine at the necessary temperature at time of transport.
- Communicate clearly with receiving site on exact time of vaccine delivery to ensure their readiness.
- Plug the portable freezer into a power source to bring to appropriate temperature. Freezer Protocol is provided in [Appendix D](#).
- If a Crêdo Cube is being used, the pharmacy technician at the regional pharmacy hub will ensure the cool packs are placed into the freezer the night before transport.
- Place the packing materials such as packing peanuts, bubble wrap, blue pads or other materials in the freezer (-25°C to -15°C) the night before for conditioning prior to placing in container around vials.
- Initiate the COVID-19 Vaccine Vial Shipping Log to document transport of vaccine vials.

Transporting the vials:

- Use the COVID-19 Vaccine Vial Inventory Log to document the number of vials taken out of the freezer in the Regional Hub.
- Vials are ideally transported in their original packaging and if this is not possible remove from packaging, wrap in bubble wrap and protect from light by placing in an opaque or amber bag.
- Vials are packed securely into freezer or Crêdo Cube with packing material around them so that they do not move at all during transit. Cold packs can also be placed around packing material in case of transportation delays or equipment failure (Appendix D for Freezer Protocol).
- The TempTale TMD is packed with the vials in the container.
- Portable freezers are plugged into a power source on the plane, during drive to health centre (UPC unit) and again in health center.
- Nurse in the community must meet the plane with a UPC to charge the portable freezers during trip to health center. Countertop freezers require a battery pack and cartage company will bring it with freezer to the health center. Freezer must always be plugged in.
- Once the portable freezer is powered on at the health centre - or the Crêdo Cube is opened to access the vials - retrieve the TempTale TMD. This information will assess temperature of the vials during transport. ***DO NOT STOP THE TMD***
- **Appendix E** provides instructions on downloading information from the TMD and sharing it with pharmacy technicians at regional pharmacy hubs.
- When the vials are moved into the freezer or vaccine fridge at the health centre, the TempTale TMD is placed in the same freezer or fridge to continue recording temperature data.
- Unpack the vaccine and place it carefully into the freezer or vaccine fridge at the health centre when a freezer is not available.
 - Read the display on the TempTale and if it is -2°C or warmer, visually inspect the vials before placing in freezer. If warmer than 0 or appears to be in a liquid state, place in the fridge, DO NOT refreeze and contact regional pharmacy.
- Check the number of vials received against the Vaccine Shipping Log.
- If the vaccine arrives frozen, with no breach of cold chain, and is placed directly in the freezer it can be stored as follows:
 - Moderna SPIKEVAX®: until the expiry dates indicated on the label, unless otherwise advised by pharmacy. If there has been a breach of cold chain, it must be stored in the vaccine fridge (+2°C to +8°C) and used within 30 days or otherwise as directed by

pharmacy. Thawed vials of vaccine cannot be moved to the next community. Determine if vaccine is thawing by checking TempTale TMD at arrival.

- Pfizer BioNTech COMIRNATY®:
 - i. For 14 days at **-25°C to -15°C**. Note that the time used for transport counts against the 14-day limit for frozen storage for Pfizer. If there has been a breach of cold chain it must be stored in the vaccine fridge and used as directed by pharmacy. Thawed vials of vaccine cannot be moved to the next community. Determine if vaccine is thawing by checking TempTale TMD at arrival.
 - ii. For 31 days at fridge temperature **+2°C to +8°C**. Note that this is in addition to the 14 days at **-25°C to -15°C**.
- **DO NOT** shake or drop the vaccine
- Use the COVID-19 Vaccine Vial Inventory Log to document the number of vials placed into the freezer or vaccine fridge.

Transporting Vials of COVID-19 Vaccine from one Community to Another

In some circumstances, vials of vaccine will be transported from a Regional Hub to a community, and then on to another community. Only frozen vaccine can be transported by air; this means that if the first community does not have a freezer to store the vaccine, contact the pharmacy team.

A cooler can only be used to transport vaccine to another community when the vials have been stored in the frozen state in the first community; i.e. at a temperature of **-25°C to -15°C** and are placed into the cooler frozen. **Frozen vaccine transport by air in a cooler is assumed to be thawing upon arrival and should be placed in a vaccine fridge and used within 31 days.**

Planning for transport:

- Pharmacy will review the weekly distribution plan to identify the number of vials to be sent to each of the communities so an appropriate number is sent.
- Pharmacy will work with and oversee Health centre staff to ensure they have the appropriate storage equipment, ability, and capacity to store vaccine at the necessary temperature at time of transport. Pharmacy will communicate clearly with receiving site on exact time of vaccine delivery to ensure their readiness.
- In very rare circumstances a cooler may be used to ship vaccine onwards from a community, but plans are being made to minimize the use of coolers as it is preferable to maintain a temperature of **-25°C to -15°C** throughout transport.
- Prior approval from the pharmacy team to ship the vaccines in a cooler is required.
- If a cooler is being used place the cool packs into the freezer the night before transport.

- Place the packing materials such as packing peanuts, bubble wrap, blue pads or other packing materials in the freezer (-25°C to -15°C) the night before prior to placing in container around vials.
- Initiate the COVID19 Vaccine Vial Shipping Log to document transport of vaccine vials.

Transporting the vials:

- Use the COVID19 Vaccine Vial Inventory Log to document the number of vials taken out of the freezer in the first community.
- Vials are ideally transported in their original packaging and if this is not possible remove from packaging, wrap in bubble wrap and protect from light by placing in an opaque or amber bag.
- Vials are packed securely into freezer or cooler with packing material around them so that they do not move at all during transit. Cold packs can also be placed around packing material in case of transportation delays or equipment failure (Appendix D for Freezer Protocol and Appendix F for details on packing refrigeration pack).
- TempTale TMD must accompany vaccine vials at all times. If some vaccine will be left in a community while the rest is shipped to another community two TempTales will be sent with original shipment.
- Once the cooler is opened to access the vials - retrieve the TempTale TMD. This information will assess temperature of the vials during transport. ***DO NOT STOP THE TMD***
- Appendix E provides instructions on downloading information from the TMD and sharing it with pharmacy technicians at regional pharmacy hubs.
- When the vials are moved into the freezer or vaccine fridge at the health centre, the TempTale TMD is placed in the same freezer or fridge to continue recording temperature data.
- Unpack the vaccine and place it carefully into the freezer or vaccine fridge at the health centre and check the number of vials received against the Vaccine Shipping Log; document vials placed into freezer or fridge with COVID-19 Vaccine Vial Inventory Log.
- If the vaccine arrives frozen, with no breach of cold chain, and is placed directly in the freezer it can be stored as follows:
 - Moderna SPIKEVAX®: until the expiry dates indicated on the label unless otherwise advised by pharmacy. If there has been a breach of cold chain it must be stored in the vaccine fridge and used within 30 days or otherwise as directed by pharmacy. Determine if vaccine is thawing by checking TempTale TMD at arrival.
 - Read the display on the TempTale and if it is -2°C or warmer visually inspect the vials before placing in freezer. If warmer than 0 or appears to be in a liquid state place in the fridge DO NOT refreeze.
 - Pfizer COMIRNATY®:



- For 14 days. Note that the time used for transport counts against the 14-day limit for frozen storage for Pfizer. If there has been a breach of cold chain, it must be stored in the vaccine fridge and used as directed by pharmacy. Determine if vaccine is thawing by checking TempTale TMD at arrival.
- For 31 days at fridge temperature **+2°C to +8°C**. Note that this is in addition to the 14 days at **-25°C to -15°C**.
 - Read the display on the TempTale and if it is -2°C or warmer visually inspect the vials before placing in freezer. If warmer than 0 or appears to be in a liquid state place in the fridge DO NOT refreeze.
- When a cooler is used, vaccine vials are assumed to be thawing upon arrival. **They must be placed in the vaccine fridge, not the freezer, and used according to the appropriate vaccine protocol.**
- **DO NOT** shake or drop the vaccine

Transporting Vials of COVID-19 Vaccine from Health centre to Another Site in the Community for Administration.

This section provides the procedure for transporting both frozen and thawed vials of vaccine from the health centre to a site for administration. Please see the [COVID-19 Immunization Protocols](#) for information on thawing frozen vials for Moderna SPIKEVAX® and Pfizer COMIRNATY®.

A frozen vial which is transported to a vaccination site and remains frozen in the cooler at the site can be returned to the health centre fridge not the freezer as it is assumed to be thawing. Thawed vials which are transported to a vaccination site cannot be returned to the health centre as this would mean moving a thawed vial twice. Plans should be made for vaccinating others in the event doses are available off-site to reduce wastage; this could include radio announcements.

Vials should not be transported between sites at *room temperature* and punctured vials should never be transported between sites.

Planning for transport:

When vials are moved from the freezer or vaccine fridge at the health centre to another location for vaccine administration, it is important to plan for transport.

- Notify the person in charge of ordering the vaccine that an identified number of vials will be required for administration of vaccine off-site so the vial(s) will be available in the freezer or vaccine fridge on that day.
- Take the minimum amount of vaccine required to the clinic to prevent any wastage. Document on the COVID-19 Vaccine Inventory Log the number of vials removed from the freezer or fridge.
- If *thawing* vaccine, when placing vial in a fridge to thaw, please document the date and time for each vial on a separate COVID-19 Vaccine Vial Tracking Log.

- To transport *frozen* vaccine the cooling packs for the refrigeration pack are placed in a separate freezer – not the vaccine freezer - the day before transport.
- To transport *thawed* vaccine the cooling packs for the refrigeration pack are placed into the refrigerator the day before transport.
- Place the packing materials such as packing peanuts, bubble wrap, blue pads or other packing materials in the refrigerator (+2°C to +8°C) for conditioning the day before.
- Before the vial(s) is to be transported, the cooler is assembled to allow interior to cool (see Appendix F for details on assembling pack).
- *Frozen vial(s)* must stay at **-25°C to -15°C** throughout transportation.
- *Thawed vials* must stay at **+2°C to +8°C** throughout transportation.
- Room temperature is **+8°C to +25°C** – vaccine vials should not be transported at room temperature.

Transporting the vial(s):

- Vial(s) will be signed out on the COVID-19 Vaccine Vial Inventory Log and a Vaccine Vial Tracking Log should accompany each vial.
- If transporting *frozen* vaccine, the frozen vial(s) should not be taken out of the freezer and put into the refrigeration pack until the health care team is ready to leave the health centre.
- If transporting *thawed* vaccine, the thawed vial should not be taken out of the refrigerator and put into the refrigeration pack until the health care team is ready to leave the health centre. Care must be taken to ensure the vial does not refreeze during transport - it is important to make sure the vial is not touching the cold pack.
- The manufacturer recommends transporting vials in their box or carton where possible. This may not be realistic as there are too many vials in a box or carton. Each vial should be separately packed in bubble wrap and an opaque or amber bag before being placed into refrigeration pack.
- Be sure to use plenty of padding (packing peanuts, bubble wrap, blue pads or other materials), around vial(s) to reduce movement during transport.
- *Thawed* vials should be kept upright during transport (and storage).
- **The refrigeration cooler with the vial(s) should be secured in the vehicle. The cooler is not to be put on the floor or in the trunk of a car. Avoid sudden movements or braking of the vehicle as much as possible.**
- **Every attempt should be made to carry the cooler without jostling during transport. Be careful not to drop the container with the vial(s).**

Additional notes on home visiting guidance:

In some situations, vaccination is provided during a home visit. Please see Appendix B (*Guidance for Vaccination with COVID-19 Vaccines during a Home Visit*) in the SPIKEVAX® Protocol.

For consideration for future revisions to this guidance (evolving evidence and other guidance from other jurisdictions to be monitored):

- Use of portable freezers in community-to-community vaccine transport.
- Situations in which return of thawed vaccine from an administration site to the health centre might be possible
- The use of TempTale or cold chain markers in cooler at vaccination site.



Appendix A COVID19 Vaccine Vial Shipping Log

DATE/ TIME	QUANTITY OF DOSES	QUANTITY OF VIALS	ORIGINATING LOCATION	SHIPPER	SIGNATURE	DESTINATION	RECEIVER	SIGNATURE



Appendix B: COVID19 Vaccine Vial Inventory for Freezers Log

DATE/ TIME	LOCATION	NUMBER OF VIALS ADDED	BALANCE OF VIALS	NAME (PRINT)	SIGNATURE
DATE/ TIME	LOCATION	NUMBER OF VIALS REMOVED	BALANCE OF VIALS	NAME (PRINT)	SIGNATURE



NU COVID-19 VACCINATION - MANDATORY VACCINE VIAL TRACKING - MODERNA SPIKEVAX®

Date:	
Community:	
Mass vaccination clinic Y/N	
Date Vaccine arrived in the Community	
Freezer available in community Y/N	
Freezer Accompanying Vaccinators Y / N	
(Held at -15°C to -25°C degrees until ready for use)	

Please scan in batches and email form as soon as feasible to RCDC, copying cdclabs@gov.nu.ca, every few hours (no later than same day). More detail on notes noted below. Date sent to RCDC and CDClabs@gov.nu.ca: _____	
Emails For Kitikmeot region: fdigout@gov.nu.ca For Kivalliq region: kvalliq_covid19@gov.nu.ca For Qikiqtaaluk region: covid19_qikiqtaalukrcdc@gov.nu.ca	

LOT#									
EXPIRY									
		ASSIGNED VIAL #							
		Name of Person Signed out to:							
		Name of Person Assigned to**:							
Removed from Freezer:		time (24hr)							
Thawed in refrigerator: (held at +2°C to +8°C takes 2.5 hours to thaw) (stable for 30 days)		Y / N start time end time date to discard by (30days)							
Thawed at Room Temperature: (held at +8°C to +25°C takes 1 hour to thaw)		Y / N start time end time time to puncture by (24 hours)							
Vial Punctured (vaccine stable for a cumulative total of 24 hours at room temp. The time of puncture does not reset the time)		Y / N start time end time (must discard)							
Initials of clients given dose from vial (optional) (to help with tracking number of doses)		1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11							
Doses Used from Vial: (usual 10 per vial)		Administered Wasted* Wastage code Waste/Use comments							
Vial used for home visiting		Y / N							
Signature of vaccine floater or clinical lead									

*Note: wasted or discarded refers to all unused doses (timed out, no one left to vaccinate without transporting vial, only 9 doses came out of vial means 1 wasted even if manufacturer issue). Important to capture and track accurately for program, impossible for it not to occur to some extent.
 ** If same person assigned to for all vials, can draw a line through to the end to indicate this
 Please follow green and red sticker process as outlined by pharmacy team.
 Empty vials - keep and store. Send count of empty vials at end of day. Vials can be discarded when this tracking sheet matched, signed off, and sent to RCDC and cdclabs@gov.nu.ca

Roles: RCDC to review forms, flag any concerns, and follow up with clinic as appropriate. Person monitoring CDClabs will store a copy in a secured folder on shared drive.

Wastage Codes	
AA	Damaged vial/vaccine
Bb	Refrigerated > 30 days
CC	Room Temp > 24 hours
DD	Punctured > 24 hours (Cumulative)
EE	Not enough in Vial (i.e. < 0.5ml)

Additional Notes / Comments / Observations on storage/transport/use:

Nunavut COVID-19 Mass Immunization Clinic
 Materials last updated: October 4, 2021

NU COVID-19 Mass Vaccination Materials
 Department of Health, Government of Nunavut (may be adapted outside Nunavut as long as source acknowledged)



NU COVID-19 VACCINATION - MANDATORY VACCINE VIAL TRACKING -PFIZER COMIRNATY*

Date:	
Community:	
Mass vaccination clinic Y/N	
Date Vaccine arrived in the Community	
Freezer available in community Y/N	
Freezer Accompanying Vaccinators Y / N	
(Held at -15 to -25 degrees until ready for use)	

Please scan in batches and email form as soon as feasible to RCDC, copying cdclabs@gov.nu.ca, every few hours (no later than same day). More detail on roles noted below.
 Date sent to RCDC and CDClabs@gov.nu.ca: _____

Emails
 For KRIkmeot region: fd@gout@gov.nu.ca
 For Kivalliq region: kvalliq_covid19@gov.nu.ca
 For Q&Iqtaaluq region: covid19_qikiqtaalukrodc@gov.nu.ca

LOT#							
EXPIRY							
	ASSIGNED VIAL #						
	Name of Person Signed out to:						
	Name of Person Assigned to**:						
Removed from Freezer:	time (24hr)						
Thawed in refrigerator: (held at 2 - 8 degree) (takes ~3 hours to thaw) (stable for 30 days undiluted)	Y / N start time end time date to discard by (30 days)						
Thawed at Room Temperature: (held at 8 - 25 degree) (takes 30 minutes to thaw) (stable for 2 hours undiluted)	Y / N start time end time time to puncture by (2 hours)						
Vial Diluted (stable 6 hours ONLY)	Y / N start time end time (must discard)						
Initials of clients given dose from vial (optional) (to help with tracking number of doses)	1 2 3 4 5 6						
Doses Used from Vial: (usual 6 per vial)	Administered Wasted* Wastage code Waste/use comments						
Vial used for home visiting	Y / N						
Signature of vaccine handler or clinical lead							

*Note: wasted or discarded refers to all unused doses (timed out, no one left to vaccinate without transporting vial, only 9 doses came out of vial means 1 wasted even if manufacturer issue). Important to capture and track accurately for program, impossible for it not to occur to some extent.
 ** If same person assigned to for all vials, can draw a line through to the end to indicate this
 Please follow green and red sticker process as outlined by pharmacy team.
 Empty vials - keep and store. Send count of empty vials at end of day. Vials can be discarded when this tracking sheet matched, signed off, and sent to RCDC and cdclabs@gov.nu.ca

Roles: RCDC to review forms, flag any concerns, and follow up with clinic as appropriate
 PPerson monitoring CDClabs will store a copy in a secured folder on shared drive.

Wastage Codes	
AA	Damaged vial/vaccine
BB	Refrigerated > 30 days
CC	Room Temp > 2 hours
DD	Diluted vial > 6 hours
EE	Not enough in Vial (i.e. < 0.5ml)

Additional Notes / Comments / Observations on storage/transport/use:

Nunavut COVID-19 Mass Immunization Clinic Materials
 Last updated: October 04, 2021

NU COVID-19 Mass Vaccination Materials
 Department of Health, Government of Nunavut (may be adapted outside Nunavut as long as source acknowledged)

Appendix D Freezer Protocol

1. Immediately plug in the freezer upon arriving to the health center.
2. Once the freezer is powered on, open the freezer, and retrieve the TempTale Temperature Monitoring Device (TMD).
3. See separate instructions for downloading information from the TMD. ***DO NOT STOP THE TMD* (Appendix E).**
4. When emailing the TMD data, please re-name the PDF document with community you are sending the data from and the date.
5. Place the TMD back in the freezer to continue recording temperature data.
6. Send data daily during Mass Vaccination Clinics (MVC) and twice weekly if no MVC.
7. Any shipments that arrive in a cooler or Crêdo cube should be placed in the **fridge** with the datalogger. Continue to send the data at the same intervals from the TMD regardless of whether the necessary storage is fridge or freezer. (Daily during MVC and twice weekly if no MVC).
8. Crêdo cubes and dataloggers are to be returned to the originating regional pharmacy once no longer needed to be reused.
9. Unpack the vaccine by snipping the zip ties. Keep the bubble wrap as it will be required to pack the vaccine for transportation to the next community. Additional zip ties have been provided.
10. Take the minimum amount of vaccine required out of the freezer to prevent any wastage.
11. **DO NOT** shake or drop the vaccine!
12. To continue to the next community, make sure that any unused frozen vaccine remains in the freezer.
13. Use the packing supplies to secure the vaccine for transportation.
14. Please use packing tape to secure the door of the freezer for flight.
15. Do not unplug the freezer until it is time to bring the freezer to the aircraft.
16. Use a UPC to power the freezer for the trip from the health centre to the plane and from the plane to the health centre.
17. Plug in the freezer into the aircraft power supply.
18. *Repeat steps 1-5 upon arriving at the health centre.

Michael Gauvin (Iqaluit) mgauvin@gov.nu.ca (867)975-8600 Ext. 6352, pager (867)979-7646 pager #126.

Amanda Arsenault (Rankin Inlet) aarsenault@gov.nu.ca (867)645-8334, On-call phone # (867)645-7978.

Appendix E - Instructions for use of TempTale Temperature Monitoring Device

If any issues or concerns, please contact technicians at the regional pharmacy hubs:

Michael Gauvin (Iqaluit) mgauvin@gov.nu.ca 1-867-8600 ext 2306, pager 1-867-979-7646 pager # 126

Amanda Arsenault (Rankin Inlet) aarsenault@gov.nu.ca 1-867-645-8334 On call phone 645-7978

PLEASE EXECUTE THE FOLLOWING STEPS:

1. Upon receipt, remove TempTale[®] from shipping container. **"DO NOT STOP THE DEVICE"**
2. Plug reader into a computer's USB port and send the files to the Regional Pharmacy Technician. (Michael Gauvin mgauvin@gov.nu.ca for the Qikiqtaaluk region and Amanda Arsenault aarsenault@gov.nu.ca for the Kivalliq and Kitikmeot regions.). **These should be sent daily during mass vaccination clinics, any major transport, any temperature excursions, and at least every 72 hours. Any major temperature excursions should be reported immediately to CPHO/DCPHO.**
3. Check TempTale[®] LCD display for alarm status:
 - a) **If X icon appears,**
 - i. Segregate product within appropriate temperature and do not use until disposition is provided from your Regional Pharmacy Technician.
 - ii. Reference instructions below for alarming TempTale[®].
 - b) **If icon appears,** the product has stayed within the temperature and can be accepted. Return TempTale[®] to shipping freezer.
4. Place product in proper storage conditions according to product label.



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 Department of Health
 Munaqhiiqiyitkut
 Ministère de la Santé

No Alarm



Alarm



DOWNLOAD AND RETURN INSTRUCTIONS - For Alarmed TempTales® only if X icon appears

1. The device is a USB TempTale®, plug the USB connector of the TempTale® directly into a USB port on the computer.
2. Search and open either the TT4USBMA or TTULTRAUSB drive (removable storage) on the computer. **Call QGH at (867)975-8600 Ext 6352 or Kivalliq Health centre at (867)645-8334 if further instructions are needed.**
3. Select .TTV or .TTX file, right click on the file, and place the mouse over 'Rename' and change the name of the file to your community name and the date. Then place the mouse over 'Send To' and select 'Mail Recipient.' Email .TTV or .TTX file to Michael Gauvin at mgauvin@gov.nu.ca for Qikiqtaaluk region or Amanda Arsenault at arsenault@gov.nu.ca for Kivalliq and Kitikmeot region.

Note: It will not be possible to open and view the data in the .TTV or .TTX file but the PDF file is readable.

Appendix F: Immunization Manual 3.1.7 Maintaining Cold Chain during Transport
[Note that this guidance is adapted from the Nunavut Immunization Manual and is copied here for convenience. For updates, it is best to check the Immunization Manual.]

The following items are essential for ensuring that cold chain is maintained during transport and when conducting clinics outside of the health centre.



- Hard-sided plastic insulated container
- Refrigerator-conditioned cold packs
- Newer Styrofoam cooler with walls at least 2 inches thick

Vaccines should be packed in layers to prevent shifting of the contents during transport. Be sure to place an insulating barrier between the refrigerated or frozen packs and the vaccines to prevent accidental freezing.

Container for transport

Vaccines should be transported in insulated containers. Soft-sided coolers, thin-walled coolers, and banged-up Styrofoam containers should not be used. Please note that Vaccines are double-boxed during the winter months (Oct.1 to May 31)



Cooling Packs

There are two main types of cooling packs: refrigerator-conditioned (refrigerated at +2°C to +8°C) and frozen packs available for packing vaccines. The use of these packs for transporting vaccines will depend on the ambient temperature, the amount and type of vaccine, and the size of the container.



Frozen Packs

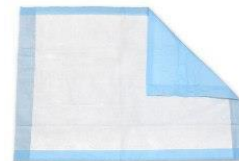


Insulating Barrier/Filler Materials and the Vaccine

Packing peanuts

Bubble wrap

Blue pads



Pack vaccines in their original packaging on top of the barrier. Do not remove vaccine vials from individual boxes – if multiple vials are in a single box the vial required for the home visit will need to be removed. Be sure to fill any spaces between vaccine boxes with crumpled paper or other filler to prevent shifting of contents in the insulated container.



Temperature Monitor

Warm/cold markers Min/max thermometer



Use a properly placed min/max thermometer or cold chain monitor near the vaccine. The temperature- monitoring device should be placed in the middle of the vaccines and should not come in contact with the refrigerated or frozen packs.

References:

1. Adapted from Nova Scotia Immunization Manual, by the Government of Nova Scotia, 2008. Adapted with permission.
2. Public Health Agency of Canada (2007). National Vaccine Storage and Handling Guidelines for Immunization Providers [PDF version]. Retrieved from <http://www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/publicat/2007/nvshgip-ldemv/pdf/nvshgip-ldemv-eng.pdf>.