

# EMERGENCY TRANSPORT OF FROZEN VACCINE

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## Guidelines for frozen vaccine transport in emergency situations

Frozen vaccines are very fragile. **Routine transport of varicella-containing vaccines (MMRV, and varicella vaccine) is not allowed.** These vaccines should be moved and transported only when absolutely necessary. Only a portable freezer unit or qualified container and pack-out that maintains temperatures between -58°F and +5°F should be used to transport varicella-containing vaccine. **If a frozen vaccine pack-out container or freezer is not available, frozen vaccines should be left in the freezer during an emergency.**

- Maintain a Vaccine Emergency Management plan that includes the name and address of a destination site where you can take your frozen vaccine in an emergency and contact information including cell phone numbers.
- **If vaccines must be transported, contact your regional VFC coordinator to see if a frozen vaccine pack-out container or freezer is available to you.**
  - Varicella-containing vaccines should be transported under frozen conditions (below 5°F) using a qualified frozen pack-out container.
  - Do not freeze diluent for vaccines containing Varicella.
  - Monitor temperatures hourly during transport.
  - Vaccines must never be transported in the trunk of a vehicle.
  - Vaccines must be placed in a freezer maintaining temperatures below 5°F immediately on arrival at the backup storage facility.
- **If a frozen pack-out container is not available, leave the frozen vaccines in the freezer with the door closed. Post a "DO NOT OPEN" sign on the door of the freezer.**
  - If you were unable to access a frozen vaccine pack-out container and had to leave the frozen vaccines in the freezer, once power is restored to your facility, download the temperature data from your freezer's digital data logger to determine if the temperature went above 5°F.
  - If there was a temperature excursion, contact Merck for instructions and,
  - Complete a Troubleshooting Record (TSR).