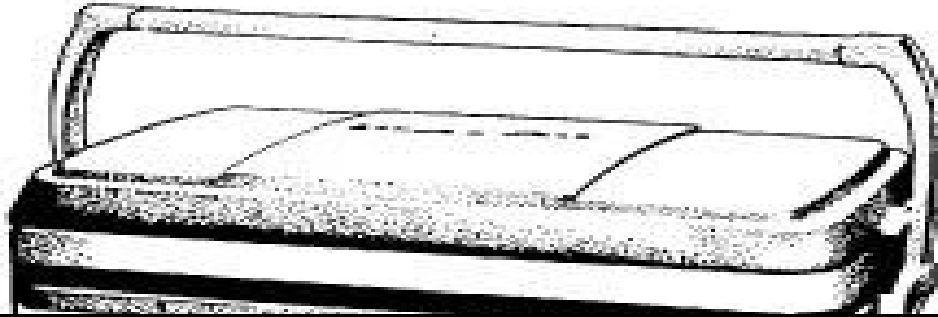


# Transporting and Handling Refrigerated Vaccines: Steps to Maintaining the Cold Chain



Top: Seal with tight fitting cooler lid  
Add more Refrigerated or Frozen Packs  
*Follow with more crumpled paper or bubble wrap*  
**Next: VACCINES & CERTIFIED THERMOMETER**  
*Add a layer of crumpled paper or bubble wrap*  
Bottom: Start with Refrigerated or Frozen Packs

## Steps to Safe Transport

1. Use a well-insulated cooler with a lid that seals tightly
2. The contents of the container should be packed as outlined above
3. Keep vaccines in their original boxes. Do not remove the lids.
4. Never place the vaccines directly on the refrigerated or frozen packs—most vaccines, like H1N1 and seasonal influenza, cannot be frozen
5. Place the certified thermometer/probe in the middle of the vaccines

## Steps to Keeping Vaccines Viable

1. Maintain the temperature in the cooler at **35°-46° F (2°-8° C)**
2. Monitor the temperatures hourly and record on a temp log
3. If temperature in cooler becomes out of range, take steps to ensure it returns to acceptable range of 35°-46° F (2°-8° C)
  - a. Follow the emergency response plan guidelines
4. Return the vaccines to an approved refrigerator at the end of the clinic

## Vaccine Handling Safety Issues

1. Do not pre-fill syringes
  - a. Only give shots/vaccines that you have drawn up
2. Take steps to ensure the Cold Chain is maintained at all times
  - a. Use smaller coolers to hold a few doses of vaccine for immediate use
3. Discard vaccine that has been drawn up, at the end of the day
  - a. Includes vaccine drawn up from a vial into a syringe and pre-filled syringes that have had caps removed and needles attached
4. Vaccine remaining in a multi-dose vial is good until the expiration date