

Vaccine Storage and Handling Toolkit

National Center for Immunization and Respiratory Diseases

Selected Biologicals

DT: Diphtheria, Tetanus Toxoids—Pediatric

Td: Tetanus, Diphtheria Toxoids—Adult

Shipping Requirements

Should be shipped in insulated container. Maintain temperature at 35° to 46°F (2° to 8°C). **Do not freeze or expose to freezing temperatures.**

Condition upon Arrival

Should not have been frozen or exposed to freezing temperatures. Refrigerate upon arrival.

Storage Requirements

Refrigerate immediately upon arrival. Store at 35° to 46°F (2° to 8°C). **Do not freeze or expose to freezing temperatures.**

Shelf Life

Check expiration date on vial or manufacturer-filled syringe.

Instructions for Use

Inspect visually for extraneous particulate matter and/or discoloration. If these conditions exist, the vaccine should not be used. Shake vial or manufacturer-filled syringe well before use. Discard vaccine if it cannot be resuspended with thorough agitation.

Shelf Life After Opening

Single-Dose Vials: The vaccine should be administered shortly after withdrawal from the vial.

Multidose Vials: Withdraw single dose of vaccine into separate sterile needle and syringe for each immunization. The vaccine should be administered shortly after withdrawal from the vial. Unused portions of multidose vials may be refrigerated at 35° – 46°F (2° – 8°C) and used until expired, if not contaminated or unless otherwise stated in the manufacturer's product information.

Manufacturer-Filled Syringes: The vaccine should be administered shortly after the needle is attached to the syringe.

Special Instructions

Rotate stock so that the earliest dated material is used first.

Note: All vaccine materials should be disposed of using medical waste disposal procedures. Contact the state health department for details.

DTaP: Diphtheria Toxoid, Tetanus Toxoid, Acellular Pertussis Vaccine—Pediatric

DTaP/Hib: Diphtheria Toxoid, Tetanus Toxoid, Acellular Pertussis Vaccine Combined with Haemophilus influenzae type b Conjugate Vaccine*—Pediatric

DTaP/HepB/IPV: Diphtheria Toxoid, Tetanus Toxoid, Acellular Pertussis Vaccine, Hepatitis B Vaccine, Inactivated Polio Vaccine—Pediatric

Tdap: Tetanus Toxoid, Diphtheria Toxoid, Acellular Pertussis Vaccine—Adult

Shipping Requirements

Should be shipped in insulated container. Maintain temperature at 35° to 46°F (2° to 8°C). **Do not freeze or expose to freezing temperatures.**

Condition upon Arrival

Should not have been frozen or exposed to freezing temperatures. Refrigerate upon arrival.

If you have questions about the condition of the material at the time of delivery, you should 1) immediately place material in recommended storage; and 2) then follow your state health department immunization program policy and contact either the Manufacturer's Quality Control office or the immunization program for guidance.

Storage Requirements

Refrigerate immediately upon arrival. Store at 35° to 46°F (2° to 8°C). **Do not freeze or expose to freezing temperatures.**

Shelf Life

Check expiration date on vial, container, or manufacturer-filled syringe.

Instructions for Reconstitution* or Use

Shake well before withdrawal and use. Do not use if resuspension does not occur with vigorous shaking.

Shelf Life After Reconstitution* or Opening

Single-Dose Vials: The vaccine should be administered shortly after withdrawal from the vial.

Manufacturer-Filled Syringes: The vaccine should be administered shortly after the needle is attached to the syringe.

Special Instructions

Rotate stock so that the earliest dated material is used first.

Note: All vaccine materials should be disposed of using medical waste disposal procedures. Contact the state health department for details.

* DTaP/Hib (TriHIBit[®]) is ActHIB[®] (sanofi pasteur) reconstituted with Tripedia[®] (sanofi pasteur). Once reconstituted, this combination vaccine must be used within 30 minutes or discarded. The only DTaP vaccine that can be used to reconstitute ActHIB[®] is Tripedia[®]. No other brand of DTaP is approved for this use.

Hepatitis Vaccines: Hepatitis A, Hepatitis B, Hepatitis A/B, Hepatitis B/Haemophilus influenzae type b

Shipping Requirements

Should be shipped in insulated container. Maintain temperature at 35° to 46°F (2° to 8°C). **Do not freeze or expose to freezing temperatures.**

Condition upon Arrival

Should not have been frozen or exposed to freezing temperatures. Refrigerate upon arrival.

If you have questions about the condition of the material at the time of delivery, you should 1) immediately place material in recommended storage; and 2) then follow your state health department immunization program policy and contact either the [Manufacturer's Quality Control](#) office or the immunization program for guidance.

Storage Requirements

Refrigerate immediately upon arrival. Store at 35° to 46°F (2° to 8°C). **Do not freeze or expose to freezing temperatures.**

Shelf Life

Check expiration date on vial or manufacturer-filled syringe.

Instructions for Use

Inspect visually for extraneous particulate matter and/or discoloration. If these conditions exist, the vaccine should not be used. Shake vial or manufacturer-filled syringe well before use. Discard vaccine if it cannot be resuspended with thorough agitation.

Shelf Life After Opening

Single-Dose Vials: The vaccine should be administered shortly after withdrawal from the vial.

Manufacturer-Filled Syringes: The vaccine should be administered shortly after the needle is attached to the syringe.

Special Instructions

Rotate stock so that the earliest dated material is used first.

Note: All vaccine materials should be disposed of using medical waste disposal procedures. Contact the state health department for details.

Hib: *Haemophilus influenzae* type b Conjugate Vaccine

Shipping Requirements

Should be shipped in insulated container. Maintain temperature at 35° to 46°F (2° to 8°C). **Do not freeze or expose to freezing temperatures.**

Condition upon Arrival

Should not have been frozen or exposed to freezing temperatures. Refrigerate upon arrival.

If you have questions about the condition of the material at the time of delivery, you should 1) immediately place material in recommended storage; and 2) then follow your state health department immunization program policy and contact either the Manufacturer's Quality Control office or the immunization program for guidance.

Storage Requirements

Vaccine: Refrigerate immediately upon arrival. Store at 35° to 46°F (2° to 8°C). **Do not freeze or expose to freezing temperatures.**

Diluent: May be refrigerated or stored at room temperature (68° – 77°F [20° – 25°C]). Do not freeze or expose to freezing temperatures.

Shelf Life

Check expiration date on vial or container.

Instructions for Reconstitution* or Use

Inspect visually for extraneous particulate matter and/or discoloration. If these conditions exist, the vaccine should not be used. Shake vial well before use. Discard vaccine if it cannot be resuspended with thorough agitation.

Shelf Life After Reconstitution* or Opening

Single-Dose Vials: The vaccine should be administered shortly after withdrawal from the vial.

Special Instructions

Rotate stock so that the earliest dated material is used first.

Note: All vaccine materials should be disposed of using medical waste disposal procedures. Contact the state health department for details.

* ActHIB[®] (sanofi pasteur) reconstituted with 0.4% sodium chloride diluent should be used within 24 hours after reconstitution. If sanofi pasteur DTaP-Tripedia[®] is used to reconstitute ActHIB[®], the TriHibit[®] vaccine must be used within 30 minutes of reconstitution. Only sanofi pasteur DTaP-Tripedia[®] or the diluent shipped with the product may be used to reconstitute the sanofi pasteur ActHIB[®] product. No other brand of DTaP is licensed for use in reconstitution of ActHIB[®].

HPV: Human Papillomavirus Vaccine

Shipping Requirements

Should be shipped in insulated container. Maintain temperature at 35° to 46°F (2° to 8°C). **Do not freeze or expose to freezing temperatures.**

Condition upon Arrival

Should not have been frozen or exposed to freezing temperatures. Refrigerate upon arrival.

If you have questions about the condition of the material at the time of delivery, you should 1) immediately place material in recommended storage; and 2) then follow your state health department immunization program policy and contact either the Manufacturer's Quality Control office or the immunization program for guidance.

Storage Requirements

Refrigerate immediately upon arrival. Store at 35° to 46°F (2° to 8°C). **Do not freeze or expose to freezing temperatures.** Protect from light at all times.

Shelf Life

Check expiration date on vial or manufacturer-filled syringe.

Instructions for Use

Inspect visually for extraneous particulate matter and/or discoloration. If these conditions exist, the vaccine should not be used. Shake vial or manufacturer-filled syringe well before use. Discard vaccine if it cannot be resuspended with thorough agitation.

Shelf Life After Opening

Single-Dose Vials: The vaccine should be administered shortly after withdrawal from the vial.

Manufacturer-Filled Syringes: The vaccine should be administered shortly after the needle is attached to the syringe.

Special Instructions

Rotate stock so that the earliest dated material is used first.

Note: All vaccine materials should be disposed of using medical waste disposal procedures. Contact the state health department for details.

IPV: Inactivated Polio Vaccine

Shipping Requirements

Should be shipped in insulated container. Maintain temperature at 35° to 46°F (2° to 8°C). **Do not freeze or expose to freezing temperatures.**

Condition upon Arrival

Should not have been frozen or exposed to freezing temperatures. Refrigerate upon arrival.

If you have questions about the condition of the material at the time of delivery, you should 1) immediately place material in recommended storage; and 2) then follow your state health department immunization program policy and contact either the Manufacturer's Quality Control office or the immunization program for guidance.

Storage Requirements

Refrigerate immediately upon arrival. Store at 35° to 46°F (2° to 8°C). **Do not freeze or expose to freezing temperatures.**

Shelf Life

Check expiration date on vial or manufacturer-filled syringe.

Instructions for Use

Inspect visually for extraneous particulate matter and/or discoloration. If these conditions exist, the vaccine should not be used. Shake vial or manufacturer-filled syringe well before use. Discard vaccine if it cannot be resuspended with thorough agitation.

Shelf Life After Opening

Multidose Vials: Withdraw single dose of vaccine into separate sterile needle and syringe for each immunization. The vaccine should be administered shortly after withdrawal from the vial. Unused portions of multidose vials may be refrigerated at 35° – 46°F (2° – 8°C) and used until expired, if not contaminated or unless otherwise stated in the manufacturer's product information. **Manufacturer-Filled Syringes:** The vaccine should be administered shortly after the needle is attached to the syringe.

Special Instructions

Rotate stock so that the earliest dated material is used first.

Note: All vaccine materials should be disposed of using medical waste disposal procedures. Contact the state health department for details.

TIV: Trivalent Inactivated Influenza Vaccine

Shipping Requirements

Should be shipped in insulated container. Maintain temperature at 35° to 46°F (2° to 8°C). **Do not freeze or expose to freezing temperatures.**

Condition upon Arrival

Should not have been frozen or exposed to freezing temperatures. Refrigerate upon arrival.

If you have questions about the condition of the material at the time of delivery, you should 1) immediately place material in recommended storage; and 2) then follow your state health department immunization program policy and contact either the Manufacturer's Quality Control office or the immunization program for guidance.

Storage Requirements

Refrigerate immediately upon arrival. Store at 35° to 46°F (2° to 8°C). **Do not freeze or expose to freezing temperatures.** Protect Fluarix® and FluLaval™ from light at all times by storing in original package.

Shelf Life

Formulated for use during current influenza season. Check expiration date on vial or manufacturer-filled syringe.

Instructions for Use

Inspect visually for extraneous particulate matter and/or discoloration. If these conditions exist, the vaccine should not be used. Shake vial or manufacturer-filled syringe well before use. Discard vaccine if it cannot be resuspended with thorough agitation.

Shelf Life After Opening

Single-Dose Vials: The vaccine should be administered shortly after withdrawal from the vial.

Multidose Vials: Withdraw single dose of vaccine into separate sterile needle and syringe for each immunization. The vaccine should be administered shortly after withdrawal from the vial. Unused portions of multidose vials may be refrigerated at 35° – 46°F (2° – 8°C) and used until expired, if not contaminated or unless otherwise stated in the manufacturer's product information.

Manufacturer-Filled Syringes: The vaccine should be administered shortly after the needle is attached to the syringe.

Special Instructions

Rotate stock so that the earliest dated material is used first.

Note: All vaccine materials should be disposed of using medical waste disposal procedures. Contact the state health department for details.

LAIV: Live Attenuated Influenza Vaccine

Shipping Requirements

Initially shipped to authorized distributors in the frozen state 5°F (-15°C). Shipped from the distributor to healthcare facilities in the refrigerated state at 35° – 46°F (2° – 8°C).

Condition upon Arrival

Refrigerate upon arrival.

If you have questions about the condition of the material at the time of delivery, you should 1) immediately place material in recommended storage; and 2) then follow your state health department immunization program policy and contact either the [Manufacturer's Quality Control](#) office or the immunization program for guidance.

Storage Requirements

Refrigerate immediately upon arrival. Store at 35° – 46°F (2° – 8°C). **Do not freeze or expose to freezing temperatures.** (If LAIV is inadvertently frozen, the vaccine should be moved immediately to the refrigerator and may be used until the expiration date printed on the package.)

Shelf Life

Formulated for use during current influenza season. Check expiration date on package.

Instructions for Use

LAIV is a colorless to pale yellow liquid and is clear to slightly cloudy; some particulates may be present but do not affect the use of the product. After removal of the sprayer from the refrigerator, remove the rubber tip protector. Follow manufacturer's instructions to deliver ½ dose into one nostril. Then remove the dose-divider clip and deliver the remainder of the dose into the other nostril.

Shelf Life After Opening

Single-Dose Sprayer: The vaccine should be administered shortly after removal from the refrigerator.

Special Instructions

Rotate stock so that the earliest dated material is used first.

Note: All vaccine materials should be disposed of using medical waste disposal procedures. Contact the state health department for details.

MMR: Measles/Mumps/Rubella Vaccine, MR: Measles/Rubella Vaccine, Measles Virus Vaccine, Mumps Virus Vaccine, Rubella Virus Vaccine

Shipping Requirements

Vaccine: Should be shipped in insulated container. Must be shipped with refrigerant. Maintain at 50°F (10°C) or less. If shipped with dry ice, diluent must be shipped separately.

Diluent: May be shipped with vaccine, but do not place in container with dry ice.

Condition upon Arrival

Maintain at 50°F (10° C) or less. If above this temperature, see instructions (*) below. **Do not use warm vaccine.** Refrigerate upon arrival.

If you have questions about the condition of the material at the time of delivery, you should 1) immediately place material in recommended storage; and 2) then follow your state health department immunization program policy and contact either the Manufacturer's Quality Control office or the immunization program for guidance.

Storage Requirements

Vaccine: Refrigerate immediately upon arrival. Store at 35° to 46°F (2° to 8°C). Protect from light at all times, since such exposure may inactivate the virus.

Diluent: May be refrigerated or stored at room temperature (68° to 77°F [20° to 25°C]). **Do not freeze or expose to freezing temperatures.**

Note: MMR vaccine may be stored in the refrigerator or freezer.

Shelf Life

Check expiration date on vial.

Instructions for Reconstitution and Use

Reconstitute just before use according to the manufacturer's instructions. Use only the diluent supplied to reconstitute the vaccine.

Shelf Life After Reconstitution, Thawing or Opening

Single-Dose Vials: After reconstitution, use immediately or store at 35° – 46°F (2° – 8°C) and protect from light. **Discard if not used within 8 hours of reconstitution.**

Multidose vials: Withdraw single dose of reconstituted vaccine into separate sterile needle and syringe for each immunization. The vaccine dose should be administered shortly after withdrawal from vial. Unused portions of multidose vials may be refrigerated at 35° – 46°F (2° – 8°C), but must be discarded if not used within 8 hours after reconstitution.

Special Instructions

Rotate stock so that the earliest dated material is used first.

Note: All vaccine materials should be disposed of using medical waste disposal procedures. Contact the state health department for details.

MMRV: Measles/Mumps/Rubella/Varicella Vaccine

Shipping Requirements

Vaccine: Should be shipped in insulated container. Must be shipped with dry ice only, at 5°F (-15°C) or colder. Should be delivered within 2 days.

Diluent: May be shipped with vaccine, but do not place in container with dry ice.

Condition upon Arrival

Should be frozen. Vaccine should remain at 4°F (-20°C) or colder until arrival at the healthcare facility. Dry ice should still be present in the shipping container when vaccine is delivered.

If you have questions about the condition of the material at the time of delivery, you should 1) immediately place material in recommended storage; and 2) then follow your state health department immunization program policy and contact either the [Manufacturer's Quality Control](#) office or the immunization program for guidance.

Storage Requirements

Vaccine: Freeze immediately upon arrival.

Maintain vaccine in a continuously frozen state at 5°F (-15°C) or colder. **No freeze/thaw cycles are allowed with this vaccine.** Vaccine should only be stored in freezers or refrigerator/freezers with separate doors and compartments.

Acceptable storage may be achieved in standard household freezers purchased in the last 10 years, and standard household refrigerator/freezers with a separate, sealed freezer compartment. "Dormitory-style units" are not appropriate for the storage of MMRV vaccine. **Do not store lyophilized vaccine in the refrigerator. If lyophilized vaccine is inadvertently stored in the refrigerator, it should be used within 72 hours.**

Lyophilized vaccine stored at 35° – 46°F (2° – 8°C) which is not used within 72 hours should be discarded.

Protect the vaccine from light at all times since such exposure may inactivate the vaccine viruses.

In order to maintain temperatures of 5°F (-15°C) or colder, it will be necessary in most refrigerator/ freezer models to turn the temperature dial down to the coldest setting. This may result in the refrigerator compartment temperature being lowered as well. Careful monitoring of the refrigerator temperature will be necessary to avoid freezing killed or inactivated vaccines.

Diluent: May be refrigerated or stored at room temperature (68° to 77°F [20° to 25°C]). **Do not freeze or expose to freezing temperatures.**

Shelf Life

Check expiration date on vial.

Instructions for Reconstitution and Use

Reconstitute just before use according to the manufacturer's instructions. Use only the diluent supplied to reconstitute the vaccine.

Shelf Life After Reconstitution, Thawing or Opening

Single-Dose Vials: Discard reconstituted vaccine if it is not used **within 30 minutes** of reconstitution. **Do not freeze reconstituted vaccine.**

Special Instructions

If this vaccine is stored at a temperature warmer than 5°F (-15°C), it will result in a loss of potency and a reduced shelf life. If a power outage or some other situation occurs that results in the vaccine storage temperature rising above the recommended temperature, the healthcare provider should contact Merck, the vaccine manufacturer, at 1-800-MERCK-90 for an evaluation of the product potency before using the vaccine.

Note: All vaccine materials should be disposed of using medical waste disposal procedures. Contact the state health department for details.

MCV: Meningococcal Conjugate Vaccine

Shipping Requirements

Should be shipped in insulated container. Maintain temperature at 35° to 46°F (2° to 8°C). **Do not freeze or expose to freezing temperatures.**

Condition upon Arrival

Should not have been frozen or exposed to freezing temperatures. Refrigerate upon arrival.

If you have questions about the condition of the material at the time of delivery, you should 1) immediately place material in recommended storage; and 2) then follow your state health department immunization program policy and contact either the Manufacturer's Quality Control office or the immunization program for guidance.

Storage Requirements

Refrigerate immediately upon arrival. Store at 35° to 46°F (2° to 8°C). **Do not freeze or expose to freezing temperatures.**

Shelf Life

Check expiration date on vial or manufacturer-filled syringe.

Instructions for Use

Inspect visually for extraneous particulate matter and/or discoloration. If these conditions exist, the vaccine should not be used. Shake vial or manufacturer-filled syringe well before use. Discard vaccine if it cannot be resuspended with thorough agitation.

Shelf Life After Opening

Single-Dose Vials: The vaccine should be administered shortly after withdrawal from the vial.

Manufacturer-Filled Syringes: The vaccine should be administered shortly after the needle is attached to the syringe.

Special Instructions

Rotate stock so that the earliest dated material is used first. Vaccine should be injected by the intramuscular route. Do not inject intradermally, subcutaneously, or intravenously.

Note: All vaccine materials should be disposed of using medical waste disposal procedures. Contact the state health department for details.

MPSV: Meningococcal Polysaccharide Vaccine

Shipping Requirements

Should be shipped in insulated container. Maintain temperature at 35° to 46°F (2° to 8°C). **Do not freeze or expose to freezing temperatures.**

Condition upon Arrival

Should not have been frozen or exposed to freezing temperatures. Refrigerate upon arrival.

If you have questions about the condition of the material at the time of delivery, you should 1) immediately place material in recommended storage; and 2) then follow your state health department immunization program policy and contact either the [Manufacturer's Quality Control](#) office or the immunization program for guidance.

Storage Requirements

Vaccine: Refrigerate immediately upon arrival. Store at 35° to 46°F (2° to 8°C). **Do not freeze or expose to freezing temperatures.**

Diluent: May be refrigerated or stored at room temperature (68° – 77°F [20° – 25°C]). **Do not freeze or expose to freezing temperatures.**

Shelf Life

Check expiration date on vial.

Instructions for Reconstitution and Use

Reconstitute gently. This is a white powder that yields a clear, colorless liquid when reconstituted with 0.6 ml (single-dose vial) or 6 ml (10-dose vial) of sterile distilled water.

Shelf Life After Reconstitution or Opening

Single-Dose Vials: Use **within 30 minutes** of reconstitution.

Multidose Vials: Unused portions of multidose vials may be refrigerated at 35° to 46°F (2° to 8°C) and used up to 35 days after reconstitution.

Special Instructions

Rotate stock so that the earliest dated material is used first.

Note: All vaccine materials should be disposed of using medical waste disposal procedures. Contact the state health department for details.

PCV: Pneumococcal Conjugate Vaccine

Shipping Requirements

Should be shipped in insulated container. Maintain temperature at 35° to 46°F (2° to 8°C). **Do not freeze or expose to freezing temperatures.**

Condition upon Arrival

Should not have been frozen or exposed to freezing temperatures. Refrigerate upon arrival.

If you have questions about the condition of the material at the time of delivery, you should 1) immediately place material in recommended storage; and 2) then follow your state health department immunization program policy and contact either the Manufacturer's Quality Control office or the immunization program for guidance.

Storage Requirements

Refrigerate immediately upon arrival. Store at 35° to 46°F (2° to 8°C). **Do not freeze or expose to freezing temperatures.**

Shelf Life

Check expiration date on vial or manufacturer-filled syringe.

Instructions for Use

Inspect visually for extraneous particulate matter and/or discoloration. If these conditions exist, the vaccine should not be used. Shake vial or manufacturer-filled syringe well before use. Discard vaccine if it cannot be resuspended with thorough agitation.

Shelf Life After Opening

Single-Dose Vials: The vaccine should be administered shortly after withdrawal from the vial.

Manufacturer-Filled Syringes: The vaccine should be administered shortly after the needle is attached to the syringe.

Special Instructions

This vaccine is a suspension containing adjuvant and should not be used if the particles cannot be resuspended after vigorous shaking. Rotate stock so that the earliest dated material is used first.

Note: All vaccine materials should be disposed of using medical waste disposal procedures. Contact the state health department for details.

PPV: Pneumococcal Polysaccharide Vaccine

Shipping Requirements

Should be shipped in insulated container. Maintain temperature at 35° to 46°F (2° to 8°C). **Do not freeze or expose to freezing temperatures.**

Condition upon Arrival

Should not have been frozen or exposed to freezing temperatures. Refrigerate upon arrival.

If you have questions about the condition of the material at the time of delivery, you should 1) immediately place material in recommended storage; and 2) then follow your state health department immunization program policy and contact either the Manufacturer's Quality Control office or the immunization program for guidance.

Storage Requirements

Refrigerate immediately upon arrival. Store at 35° to 46°F (2° to 8°C). **Do not freeze or expose to freezing temperatures.**

Shelf Life

Check expiration date on vial.

Instructions for Use

Inspect visually for extraneous particulate matter and/or discoloration. If these conditions exist, the vaccine should not be used. Shake vial or manufacturer-filled syringe well before use. Discard vaccine if it cannot be resuspended with thorough agitation.

Shelf Life After Opening

Single-Dose Vials: The vaccine should be administered shortly after withdrawal from the vial.

Multidose Vials: Withdraw single dose of vaccine into separate sterile needle and syringe for each immunization. The vaccine should be administered shortly after withdrawal from the vial. Unused portions of multidose vials may be refrigerated at 35° – 46°F (2° – 8°C) and used until expired, if not contaminated or unless otherwise stated in the manufacturer's product information.

Special Instructions

Do not inject intravenously. Intradermal administration may cause severe local reactions and should be avoided. Rotate stock so that the earliest dated material is used first.

Note: All vaccine materials should be disposed of using medical waste disposal procedures. Contact the state health department for details.

Rotavirus Vaccine

Shipping Requirements

Should be shipped in insulated container. Maintain temperature at 35° to 46°F (2° to 8°C). **Do not freeze or expose to freezing temperatures.**

Condition upon Arrival

Should not have been frozen or exposed to freezing temperatures. Refrigerate upon arrival.

If you have questions about the condition of the material at the time of delivery, you should 1) immediately place material in recommended storage; and 2) then follow your state health department immunization program policy and contact either the Manufacturer's Quality Control office or the immunization program for guidance.

Storage Requirements

Refrigerate immediately upon arrival. Store at 35° to 46°F (2° to 8°C). **Do not freeze or expose to freezing temperatures.** Protect from light at all times, since such exposure may inactivate the vaccine viruses.

Shelf Life

Check expiration date on package.

Instructions for Use

Each dose is supplied in a container consisting of a squeezable plastic, latex-free dosing tube with a twist-off cap, allowing for direct oral administration. The dosing tube is contained in a pouch. Remove the dosing tube from the pouch, screw the cap clockwise to puncture the tube, and screw the cap off counter-clockwise so that the liquid can be squeezed from the tube during oral administration of the vaccine.

Shelf Life After Opening

Single-Dose Pouches: The vaccine should be administered shortly after withdrawal from the refrigerator. The dosing tube should not be returned to the refrigerator once the screw cap has been removed.

Special Instructions

Rotate stock so that the earliest dated material is used first.

Note: All vaccine materials should be disposed of using medical waste disposal procedures. Contact the state health department for details.

Varicella (Chickenpox) Vaccine

Shipping Requirements

Vaccine: Use insulated container. Must be shipped with dry ice only, at 5°F (-15°C) or colder. Should be delivered within 2 days.

Diluent: May be shipped with vaccine, but do not place in container with dry ice.

Condition upon Arrival

Should be frozen. Vaccine should remain at 5°F (-15°C) or colder until arrival at the healthcare facility. Dry ice should still be present in the shipping container when vaccine is delivered.

If you have questions about the condition of the material at the time of delivery, you should 1) immediately place material in recommended storage; and 2) then follow your state health department immunization program policy and contact either the [Manufacturer's Quality Control](#) office or the immunization program for guidance.

Storage Requirements

Vaccine: Freeze immediately upon arrival. Maintain vaccine in a continuously frozen state at 5°F (-15°C) or colder. **No freeze/thaw cycles are allowed with this vaccine.** Vaccine should only be stored in freezers or refrigerator/freezers with separate external doors and compartments. Acceptable storage may be achieved in standard household freezers purchased in the last 10 years, and standard household refrigerator/freezers with a separate, sealed freezer compartment. "Dormitory-style" units are not appropriate for the storage of varicella vaccine. **Do not store lyophilized vaccine in the refrigerator. If lyophilized vaccine is inadvertently stored in the refrigerator, it should be used within 72 hours. Lyophilized vaccine stored at 35° – 46°F (2° – 8°C) which is not used within 72 hours, should be discarded.** Protect the vaccine from light at all times since such exposure may inactivate the vaccine virus.

In order to maintain temperatures of 5°F (-15°C) or colder, it will be necessary in most refrigerator/freezer models to turn the temperature dial down to the coldest setting. This may result in the refrigerator compartment temperature being lowered as well. Careful monitoring of the refrigerator temperature will be necessary to avoid freezing killed or inactivated vaccines.

Diluent: May be refrigerated or stored at room temperature (68° to 77°F [20° to 25°C]). **Do not freeze or expose to freezing temperatures.**

Shelf Life

Check expiration date on vial.

Instructions for Reconstitution and Use

Reconstitute just before use according to the manufacturer's instructions. Use only the diluent supplied to reconstitute the vaccine.

Shelf Life After Reconstitution, Thawing or Opening

Single-Dose Vials: Discard reconstituted vaccine if it is not used **within 30 minutes** of reconstitution. **Do not freeze reconstituted vaccine.**

Special Instructions

Rotate stock so that the earliest dated material is used first.

If this vaccine is stored at a temperature warmer than 5°F (-15°C), it will result in a loss of potency and a reduced shelf life. If a power outage or some other situation occurs that results in the vaccine storage temperature rising above the recommended temperature, the healthcare provider should contact Merck, the vaccine manufacturer, at 1-800-9-VARIVAX for a reevaluation of the product potency before using the vaccine.

Note: All vaccine materials should be disposed of using medical waste disposal procedures. Contact the state health department for details.

Zoster (Shingles) Vaccine

Shipping Requirements

Vaccine: Should be shipped in insulated container. Must be shipped with dry ice only, at 5°F (-15°C) or colder. Should be delivered within 2 days.

Diluent: May be shipped with vaccine, but do not place in container with dry ice.

Condition upon Arrival

Should be frozen. Vaccine should remain at 5°F (-15°C) or colder until arrival at the healthcare facility. Dry ice should still be present in the shipping container when vaccine is delivered.

If you have questions about the condition of the material at the time of delivery, you should 1) immediately place material in recommended storage; and 2) then follow your state health department immunization program policy and contact either the [Manufacturer's Quality Control](#) office or the immunization program for guidance.

Storage Requirements

Vaccine: Freeze immediately upon arrival. Maintain vaccine in a continuously frozen state at 5°F (-15°C) or colder. **No freeze/thaw cycles are allowed with this vaccine.**

Vaccine should only be stored in freezers or refrigerator/freezers with separate doors and compartments. Acceptable storage may be achieved in standard household freezers purchased in the last 10 years, and standard household refrigerator/freezers with a separate, sealed freezer compartment. "Dormitory-style units" are not appropriate for the storage of zoster vaccine. **Do not store lyophilized vaccine in the refrigerator.** Protect the vaccine from light at all times since such exposure may inactivate the vaccine viruses.

In order to maintain temperatures of 5°F (-15°C) or colder, it will be necessary in most refrigerator/freezer models to turn the temperature dial down to the coldest setting.

This may result in the refrigerator compartment temperature being lowered as well. Careful monitoring of the refrigerator temperature will be necessary to avoid freezing killed or inactivated vaccines.

Diluent: May be refrigerated or stored at room temperature (68° to 77°F [20° to 25°C]). **Do not freeze or expose to freezing temperatures.**

Shelf Life

Check expiration date on vial.

Instructions for Reconstitution and Use

Reconstitute just before use according to the manufacturer's instructions. Use only the diluent supplied to reconstitute the vaccine.

Shelf Life After Reconstitution, Thawing or Opening

Discard reconstituted vaccine if it is not used within 30 minutes. Do not freeze reconstituted vaccine.

Special Instructions

Rotate stock so that the earliest dated material is used first.

If this vaccine is stored at a temperature warmer than 5°F (-15°C), it will result in a loss of potency and a reduced shelf life. If a power outage or some other situation occurs that results in the vaccine storage temperature rising above the recommended temperature, the healthcare provider should contact Merck, the vaccine manufacturer, at 1-800-MERCK-90 for a reevaluation of the product potency before using the vaccine.

Note: All vaccine materials should be disposed of using medical waste disposal procedures. Contact the state health department for details.