



# STATE OF CONNECTICUT

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH  
IMMUNIZATION PROGRAM

**PLEASE COPY THIS FOR ALL HEALTH CARE PROVIDERS**

**IN YOUR PRACTICE**

**TO:** All Users of State Supplied Vaccine  
**FROM:** Mick Bolduc-Vaccines For Children (VFC) Coordinator<sup>MB</sup>  
**DATE:** December 13, 2011  
**SUBJECT:** Update on transport of varicella containing vaccines

The primary purpose of this communication is to inform you of new guidelines for the transport of varicella containing vaccines.

**Special Instructions for Transport of varicella vaccine**

CDC has put forth new recommendations if and when varicella containing vaccines must be transported. Varicella containing vaccines should be transported with a portable freezer unit that maintains the temperature between -58 degrees F and +5 degrees F (-50 C and -15 C). Portable freezers may be available for rent in some places. If varicella containing vaccines must be transported and a portable freezer unit is not available, then the following steps should be followed:

1. Place a calibrated thermometer in the container used for transport as close to the vaccine as possible.
2. Record the time the vaccine was removed from the storage unit and placed in the container, the temperature during transport, and the time and temperature at the beginning and end of transport.
3. Upon arrival at the alternate storage facility immediately place the vaccine in the freezer and store at a temperature between -58 degrees F and +5 degrees F (-50 C and -15 C).
4. Document the time the vaccine was removed from the container and placed in the alternate storage unit and **contact Merck at 1-800-637-2590 for further guidance.**

As a reminder dry ice is not recommended even for temporary storage or emergency transport of varicella vaccine as it may subject the vaccine to temperatures colder than -58 F (-50 C). **Never discard vaccine without first consulting the Immunization Program.**

As always, if you have any questions, please feel free to contact the Immunization Program at (860) 509-7929.