



# Vaccine Transport

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## General transport information

Vaccine must be shipped directly to your clinic. Moving vaccine from the delivery location is not recommended; however, there are a few circumstances when vaccine may be moved:

- **Emergency transport:** This includes necessary transport during power outages, natural disaster, or equipment failure.
- **Transport to another clinic to avoid wastage:** Transporting vaccines directly from provider to provider to prevent wastage or expiration of vaccines before use.
- **Transport to an off-site clinic:** Transporting vaccines to conduct immunization services outside of the clinic location (such as an influenza clinic).

Regardless of the reason for vaccine transport, the following guidelines must be followed:

- All transports require the use of a certified digital data logger that meets VFC requirements, no matter how short the transport.
- Temperatures must be monitored during vaccine transport. Documentation of temperatures before, during, and after transport are required.
- Never use gel packs or cold packs (such as the ones that come in the vaccine shipping containers). Use the phase change material (PCM) that came with the qualified container or conditioned water bottles if it is an emergency transport.
- Vaccines should not be in transport for longer than eight hours. If the vaccine is being transported to an off-site clinic with a proper storage unit that follows all VFC guidelines, then the time the vaccine is in the clinic storage unit does not count toward the eight hours of transport time.
- Multidose vials that have been opened should never be transported unless in emergency situations.
- Vaccine transport and packing protocols for both routine and emergency situations must be included in your clinic's storage and handling policies.
- Only trained individuals can transport vaccine.
- All vaccine being transported for the purpose of a vaccine transfer must be documented in WIR. See instructions for documentation can be found on page 42 of the [Wisconsin Immunization Registry Inventory Management guide](#).

## Planned transport

Planned vaccine transport requires either portable refrigerators/freezers or qualified containers and pack-outs. The conditioned water bottle method cannot be used for planned transport.

Portable vaccine storage unit	Qualified containers and pack-outs
Always the best option when transporting vaccine for any reason. Portable vaccine storage units require a power source and have built-in temperature controls. In addition, most units come with a cord that can be plugged into a vehicle's auxiliary power outlet.	These containers and supplies have been tested under laboratory conditions to maintain desired temperatures for short-term travel when a portable refrigerator is not available. These units do not have built-in temperature control but are able to maintain temperatures when paired with appropriate pack-out.

## Emergency transport

To transport vaccine during an emergency, any transport unit, including the conditioned water bottle method, is acceptable. If using the conditioned water bottle method, follow the CDC's guidelines outlined in [Packing for Emergency Transport](#).

## Resources

- [Wisconsin Vaccine Transport Requirements](#)
- [Packing Vaccines for Transport during Emergencies](#)
- [Vaccine Transport Temperature Log Template](#)