



Mark Parkinson, Governor
Roderick L. Bremby, Secretary

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
AND ENVIRONMENT

www.kdheks.gov

Storage and Handling of H1N1 Influenza Vaccine

1. PRIOR TO ORDERING VACCINE

- Ensure that the vaccine storage unit will continuously maintain temperatures between **35°- 46°F (2°- 8°C)**.
- Document the vaccine storage unit temperature readings twice daily for 5 days prior to placing vaccine in the unit.

Temperature logs are available at:

http://www.kdheks.gov/immunize/vfc_reporting.htm

2. UPON RECEIPT OF VACCINE, IMMEDIATELY

- **Unpack the vaccine shipment**
 - a) Match the boxes of vaccine with the cold and warm temperature monitors that accompanied the vaccine. This will allow for identification of any vaccine compromised during shipment
- **Inspect the contents for damage**
 - a) Report concerns about the vaccine integrity
Call **McKesson Customer Service** at [877-836-7123](tel:877-836-7123). Report the affected Vaccine Type, Vaccine Lot # and Expiration date
- **Count the vaccine**
 - a) Count the doses of vaccine in shipment and compare this amount with the number of doses on the packing slip. If there is a discrepancy with the number of Doses, Lot #, or Expiration Date contact: **KDHE Immunization Program 785 296-5592**. Be prepared to report the Vaccine Type, Lot No. and Expiration Date of the vaccine package, not the packing slip.
- **Label all H1N1 vaccine**
 - a) To easily distinguish H1N1 vaccine from seasonal influenza vaccine. Properly label all containers that hold the H1N1 vaccine and place the vaccine in a refrigerator that will maintain proper storage temperature at all times until vaccine is administered.

3. STORE THE VACCINE AT A CONSTANT TEMPERATURE of 35°- 46°F (2°- 8°C).

- **Caution: DO NOT FREEZE**
- **Document temperatures twice daily**
- **Refrigerator should be:**
 - a) Large enough to hold the largest number of vaccine doses expected at one time
 - b) Used only for storage of biologics
- **Do not store vaccine:**
 - a) In refrigerator door
 - b) In deli-crispers/vegetable bins or directly underneath the air vents.
Store water bottles in the above areas to stabilize temperatures
 - c) Close to the sides or floor of the vaccine storage unit as uneven temperatures will result
 - d) In a refrigerator containing food or beverages
 - e) In a dorm-style refrigerator for longer than the length of a clinic. Never store the vaccine overnight in a dorm-style unit as the temperature may get too cold and will render the vaccine ineffective.
 - f) In a combination refrigerator/freezer with a shared exterior door.

- **Transporting small amounts of vaccine**

- a) The manufacturer shipping containers other mobile temperature management units can be used to transport vaccine. Alternatively, hard-sided plastic insulated containers or Styrofoam™ coolers with at least 2-inch thick walls may be used. Thin-walled Styrofoam™ coolers, such as those purchased at grocery stores to hold beverages, are not acceptable



Use properly insulated containers to transport vaccine.

- b) Be sure to place an insulating barrier (e.g., bubble wrap, crumpled brown packing paper, Styrofoam™ peanuts) between the refrigerated/frozen packs and the vaccines to prevent accidental freezing. A layer of toweling is not sufficient as a barrier. The contents of the container should be layered as follows: refrigerated/frozen packs, barrier, vaccine, thermometer, another layer of barrier, and additional refrigerated/frozen packs
- c) Place a thermometer next to the vaccine. Ensure that the thermometer does not come in contact with the refrigerated/frozen packs.
- d) Attach labels to the outside of the container to clearly identify the contents are vaccines that are temperature sensitive. Label the vaccine that is placed inside the containers as “H1N1 vaccine.”

- **Off-Site Storage for vaccination clinics**

- a) Vaccines must be stored in a temperature controlled unit. At a minimum, vaccines should be maintained in an appropriate insulated cooler during an off-site clinic, keeping the cooler closed as much as possible. A thermometer must be kept in the cooler with the vaccines, and temperatures should be checked and recorded periodically to ensure that the cold chain is not broken.



Refrigerated/frozen packs.



Place bubble wrap, crumpled brown packing paper, or Styrofoam™ peanuts between the refrigerated/frozen packs and the vaccines.

Reference: Center for Disease Control and Prevention, Vaccine Storage and Handling Toolkit, <http://www2a.cdc.gov/vaccines/ed/shtoolkit/>

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CURTIS STATE OFFICE BUILDING, 1000 SW JACKSON ST, STE 210, TOPEKA, KS 66612-1274
785-296-5592 Fax 785-296-6510