

Mass Clinics – Vaccine Handling Tips

Transporting Vaccines

- **Keep vaccines in original packaging and maintain the packing configuration when removing vaccines from, or returning vaccines to, the cooler**
- **Use large coolers for large quantities of vaccine**
- **If the vaccine is in a large cooler for more than 4 hours, monitor cooler temperatures with a minimum –maximum thermometer**
- **Use all vaccines in one large cooler before opening the next large cooler**
- **Transport vaccines directly from the Health Unit refrigerator to the clinic setting**
- **Return vaccines directly to the Health Unit refrigerator after the clinic**
- **Transport diluents separately, unless they have been cooled in the refrigerator for 24 hours prior to transport**

At The Clinic Setting

- **Use small insulated coolers at each work station**
- **Maintain the appropriate packing configuration when removing or returning vaccines to the small cooler**
- **Avoid preloading syringes**
- **Mark the date of opening on all multi-dose vials**

KEY PRINCIPLES:

- The insulated coolers used for transport is the “refrigerator” in the clinic setting
- Open these coolers only when necessary
- Monitor the temperature in these large coolers

Protect the vaccines. Protect your patients.