

## Transporting & Storing Vaccines from the Chemist



### A Guide for Parents & Other Clients

- Vaccines must be stored and transported so that they remain between temperatures 2°C and 8°C.
- Vaccines may not work if they are frozen, get too hot or are exposed to light.
- The best way to keep vaccines safe is to pick up from the chemist on your way to the doctor's or immunisation clinic appointment. **Surgeries monitor temperatures carefully**
- When you get to your health centre, tell the receptionist, nurse or doctor that you have vaccines. They will put them in the fridge until your name is called.
- If your chemist is close to your doctor's or clinic, ask for a lined bag to keep your vaccine cool during transport.
- If your doctor is not close from the chemist or place where you stored the vaccine to your appointment place you need to follow the guidelines for storing & transporting vaccines so the vaccine is safe.

**Nurses & doctors have special training to immunise. They know how important it is make sure that vaccines given to you or your child will work. If you bring a vaccine that has not been kept cool, they should refuse to give it to you or your child.**

## Transporting Vaccines - To keep vaccines safe:

1. **Bring a cool bag or esky** with a cold brick wrapped in something - tea towel, bubble wrap, small thin towel, so the vaccine does not freeze.
2. Do **NOT** take the vaccine out of the box it came in.
3. **Keep the esky out of the sun** and in a cool place.
4. **Keep the trip as short** as possible; don't stop off to do other things or visit friends or relatives.
  - If you must pick up the vaccine the day before your health centre or doctor's visit, you must **store the vaccine in your fridge at home. (NOT the freezer)**

## Storing Vaccines at Home: To do this safely:

1. Tell the family that there is vaccine in the fridge so please don't open the fridge often.
2. Store in the middle of the fridge, in its box.
3. Do not store the vaccine in a shelf in the fridge door - temperatures are not steady there. **DO NOT FREEZE**
4. When ready to leave for the doctor or clinic visit, follow the steps suggested under "Transporting Vaccines".

### **What NOT to do**

1. **Don't leave vaccines in your bag or car**
2. **Don't store vaccines in the freezer OR fridge door**
3. **Don't take the vaccine out of its box**
4. **Don't go visiting or shopping if you have vaccine with you - go directly to your health visit**