

Acceptable Coolers for Vaccine Transfer or Transport

It is essential to maintain proper storage temperatures while transferring vaccine to another provider/clinic or transporting vaccine to an off-site clinic. The table below may help you choose the type of cooler that fits your needs. Make sure to follow the best practices for packing and transporting vaccine to keep your vaccine safe.

A thermometer with an **internal probe and external read** is preferred over one that is placed inside the cooler and can only be read by opening the cooler.

The Minnesota Department of Health does not endorse or recommend any specific brand of cooler.

Cooler type	Description	When and how to use	Monitoring temperatures off-site
Compressor cooler	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Small portable cooler that is cooled by a compressor. Can be plugged into a vehicle's power source or into an electrical outlet <p>Examples:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> FridgeFreeze WAECO 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> For use off-site over several days An option for staff traveling to several sites and staying overnight 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It can be challenging to achieve and maintain the correct temperature when this type of cooler is plugged into a vehicle's power outlet. Check and record temperatures several times: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hourly during transport in a vehicle On arrival in your home or hotel One hour later When you retire for the night First thing in the morning Hourly during clinics To maintain the temperature, open the cooler as little as possible.
Personal cooler	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hard-sided cooler with a hard cover <p>Example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Igloo Playmate Cooler 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> For transferring vaccine to another clinic or provider (e.g., 1 hour or less) For same-day clinic; use within 6-8 hours after packing the vaccine Must be properly packed and used for no more than 6-8 hours 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Check and record temperatures hourly when using the cooler for more than one hour. To maintain the temperature, open the cooler as little as possible.
Styrofoam cooler <i>Must meet industry standard for transport of vaccine</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Styrofoam coolers that vaccine is delivered in from the manufacturer or distributor Styrofoam coolers with walls at least 2 inches thick 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> For transferring vaccine to another clinic or provider (e.g., 1 hour or less) For same-day clinic; use within 6-8 hours after packing the vaccine 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Check and record temperatures hourly when using the cooler for more than 1 hour. To maintain the temperature, open the cooler as little as possible.
Do Not Use!	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Thermoelectric cooler that can be plugged into a vehicle's power source or into an electrical outlet Thin-walled Styrofoam coolers purchased at grocery stores or gas stations to hold beverages Soft-sided coolers or lunch bags <p>These types of coolers are not adequate at any time for transporting or storing vaccines. They can't maintain the correct temperatures.</p>		



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