

VACCINE POINTS

“Vaccine Points” is a bi-monthly communication distributed by the Hawaii Department of Health to all participating Vaccines for Children (VFC) providers.

Test your vaccine knowledge.

Question:

Which of the following statements regarding vaccine storage and handling, if any, is/are true?

Select all that apply.

- a) CDC recommends that dry ice should be used if it is necessary to transport varicella-containing vaccines during an emergency.
- b) Water bottles on the top shelf, floor, and in the door racks of the storage unit can help maintain stable temperatures during fluctuations caused by frequently opening and closing unit doors or a power failure.
- c) Providers using a digital data logger should monitor and record storage unit temperatures once daily.
- d) If absolutely necessary, a partially used multidose vial may be transferred to another healthcare provider, as long as the cold chain is properly maintained.
- e) All of the above are true
- f) None of the above are true

Hawaii VFC Provider Reference Toolkit, Section 2: VFC Program Requirements.

Source: CDC Vaccine Storage and Handling Toolkit: <https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/hcp/admin/storage/toolkit/storage-handling-toolkit.pdf>, pgs. 9, 13, 21, and 23.

The manufacturer does not recommend transporting frozen vaccines. If these vaccines must be transported during an emergency, CDC recommends using a portable vaccine freezer unit. Dry ice should not be used, even for temporary storage, since dry ice might expose the vaccines to temperatures colder than -50° C (-58° F). Fluctuations in temperature within the vaccine storage unit may be caused by frequently opening and closing unit doors or a power failure. Putting water bottles in the unit (top shelf, floor, and door racks) can help maintain stable temperatures. Water bottles should be placed carefully so they cannot dislodge, prevent the door from closing securely, or weigh down the door so that the seals are not tight. Water bottles are not recommended for use with certain pharmaceutical-grade and purpose-built units. For such units, follow the manufacturer's guidance. The Hawaii VFC program requires providers to record temperatures twice daily. This should be done even if there is a temperature alarm or a digital data logger temperature monitoring device. If absolutely necessary, a partially used vial may be transported to or from an off-site/satellite facility operated by the **same** provider, as long as the cold chain is properly maintained. However, a partially used vial cannot be transferred from one provider to another.

Answer: b)

