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# VACCINE POINTS

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

Question: Reconstituted varicella vaccine may be stored in the refrigerator for up to 72 hours. True or False?

- a) True
- b) False

Answer: b) False

For potency to be maintained, lyophilized varicella vaccines must be stored frozen at an average temperature of 5° F (-15° C) or colder.

Unreconstituted varicella vaccine may be stored in the refrigerator for up to 72 hours before use. Varicella vaccine stored at refrigerated temperatures for any period of time may not be refrozen for future use. If refrigerated varicella vaccine is not used within 72 hours, it should be discarded.

Live varicella-containing vaccines must be administered within 30 minutes of reconstitution. If not used within 30 minutes, vaccine should be discarded.

Sources: Prevention of Varicella. Recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) <https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/pdf/rr/rr5604.pdf>

Immunization Action Coalition Ask the Experts:  
[https://www.immunize.org/askexperts/experts\\_var.asp](https://www.immunize.org/askexperts/experts_var.asp)

