



Copies of any bulletin may be ordered by calling the Section of Epidemiology at (907) 269-8000  
or by writing to us at PO Box 240249, Anchorage, Alaska 99524-0249

*Bulletin No. 9*  
*April 28, 1975*

## The Care of Biologicals

Constant caution is necessary to maintain the potency of biologicals. Personnel who handle biologicals should observe the following guidelines in immunization procedures in order to make certain that patients get effective vaccines.

### RULES

#1: Never store vaccines in refrigerator door because of varied temperatures.

#2: Use styrofoam container to transport biologicals; add ice packs to protect vaccine. Use dry ice for polio only!

### POLIO

When maintained continuously in the frozen state at 14°F. or lower, the vaccine will retain its potency for 12 months as indicated by the expiration date.

UNOPENED polio vaccine may be refrozen if it thaws in transit provided the cumulative duration of thaw does not exceed **24 hours** and temperature never goes over 46°F.

UNOPENED vials of vaccine in the liquid state may be used up to **30 days** provided they have been stored at 35°-46°F during that period. Once opened, polio vaccine **must be kept refrigerated between doses** and used within **7 days**. If vaccine is **not** returned to refrigeration between doses, **it must be thrown out** at the end of the day.

DO NOT REFREEZE polio vaccine after opening.

Polio vaccine has a variable red and yellow tinge. Color changes may occur on thawing or storage but are unimportant if vaccine **remains crystal clear**. (However, the possibility of bacterial contamination should be considered whenever a thawed and entered vial shows color changes from red to pink to yellow during subsequent storage.)

### MEASLES, RUBELLA, MUMPS

These vaccines are extremely light and heat sensitive. Exposure of these vaccines to light -- either before or after reconstitution --

#### **KILLS THE LIVE VIRUS!**

Store in refrigerator at 35.6°F.-46.4°F. PROTECT FROM LIGHT.

Use only the diluent supplied to reconstitute the vaccine.

After mixing, use vaccine as soon as possible.

Store reconstituted vaccine in a dark place (in its carton within a towel, or wrapped in aluminum foil) and in the **refrigerator**.

Discard mixed vaccine if not used within 8 hours.

DPT (Diphtheria, Tetanus, Pertussis), DT (Diphtheria, Tetanus):

Store at 35°-46°F.

DO NOT FREEZE - this reduces potency. Shake vial before withdrawing each dose.