

Cool Box Quick Reference Guide: COVID-19 Vaccines

Maintain the temperature between +2°C to +8°

Protect the vaccine from freezing

Protect the vaccine from light

Minimise excessive movement of the vaccine

Choosing Your Cool box

- Consider how you intend to use your cool box
- The cool box must be designed for purpose of transporting and storing vaccines, and be suitably portable



- If frozen cool packs will be used, the cool box should be designed to prevent direct contact between the cool pack and the vaccine to prevent freezing
- The cool boxes and cool packs must be sourced from a recognised medical supply company. Domestic cool boxes must not be used to transport vaccines.
- Obtain data to ensure that your intended use of the cool box will keep the vaccine between +2°C to +8°C during its use. You will need to consider:
 - Total intended duration of use
 - Frequency and duration of openings during use (if any)

Preparing Your Cool box

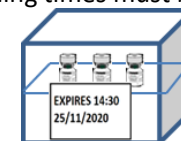
- Cool packs should be chilled in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions, to ensure they maintain the right temperature.
- The box and cool packs must be carefully assembled in strict accordance with the manufacturer's instructions
- If frozen packs are specified by the manufacturer, a digital thermometer **must** be used to check the internal temperature of the cool box after the blocks are inserted and with lid closed to ensure it is between +2°C to +8°C prior to use.



- If the cool box doesn't include pockets to hold the cool blocks, a thick (1-2cm) layer of insulating material such as crumpled paper towel or bubble wrap **must** be used to separate the blocks from the vaccine.

Using Your Cool box

- Ensure that only the quantity of vaccines required for each session are removed from the vaccine refrigerator & transferred to the cool box.
- The vials should be placed quickly into the cool boxes and opening times must be kept to a minimum



- Vaccine vials must be packed securely to minimise movement of the vaccine. Bubble wrap or paper may be used for packing.
- Place a digital thermometer or temperature logger in with the vaccines to provide additional assurance that the correct storage conditions are maintained.
- Any unused vaccines left over at the end of a vaccination session must be discarded. They may **not** be returned for future use.
- Keep the length of time the vaccines are stored in a cool box to the minimum required.