

VFC & VFAAR

Receiving Vaccines



All VFC and VFAAR vaccines are shipped to the provider from McKesson, with the exception of varicella vaccine, which is shipped directly from Merck & Co., Inc. All vaccine will be shipped via commercial carrier, either FedEx or UPS.

Generally, it takes McKesson 10-14 business days from the date the order was submitted by PDPH to actually ship provider orders. Delays occur when orders that do not have a complete and closed reconciliation, or if the order is missing temperature readings (all temperature logs since the last order). Please allow 15 business days for delivery of varicella from Merck. Providers should expect vaccine deliveries on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays.

When vaccine is received from McKesson:

1. Open the box immediately and inspect the contents. If contents appear damaged, immediately contact the Immunization Program at (215) 685-6728.
2. Make sure doses listed on the packing slip match the contents listed as well as doses requested in your vaccine order. If you have questions about your shipment, contact the VFC or VFAAR program immediately.

NOTE: Neither the packing slip nor the box is labeled "VFC" or "VFAAR." To identify a vaccine shipment as a VFC or VFAAR, the packing slip will state, "This vaccine was purchased with public funds. All [VFC or 317] vaccines are shipped by McKesson."

3. With varicella vaccine shipments, always check the box lid for diluent.
4. Vaccine shipments are packed with one of two types of temperature monitors: a *3M MonitorMark Time Temperature Indicator™*, a *C FREEZEmarker Indicator™* and/or a *ColdMark™ Freeze Indicator*. Guides for reading the indicators are included in vaccine shipments. Ensure that the indicators show that the temperatures have been maintained at a safe temperature; if not, call the VFC or VFAAR program immediately.

NOTE: Ice packs can be melted, and the temperature can still be fine – always refer to the temperature indicator(s) to determine if proper temperatures have been maintained.

5. Once inspected, label and store the vaccine immediately.
6. If there is any question about the viability of vaccine, mark the vaccine as "Do Not Use," store in appropriate refrigerator/freezer units and call the VFC or VFAAR program. Please do not discard vaccine prior to calling the VFC or VFAAR program.

McKesson ships vaccines in recyclable insulated cartons able to maintain proper temperatures for up to 72 hours. We encourage you to recycle these shipping cartons. Polystyrene (Styrofoam) is not accepted for curbside pick-up in Philadelphia, but can be dropped off at the Northeast Sanitation Convenience Center located at State Road and Ashburner Street.

Merck will provide return labels and instructions in with the packing slip for the return of their styrofoam coolers.