



The Maine Immunization Program Transfer Policy

The Maine Immunization Program allows vaccine transfer only between providers who are actively enrolled in the program. The vaccine transfer policy is as follows:

The Federal CDC is requiring all providers who receive vaccine from the Maine Immunization Program to use a new process in order to transfer vaccines between Maine Immunization Providers. In order to transfer vaccine, providers **MUST** do the following:

1. Both providers have a current Provider Agreement on file.
2. Both providers have their cold chain up to date and temperatures have been in range for at least 7 days.
3. Both providers have reconciled their inventory within the last 30 days.
4. Call Vaccine Management at 1-800-569-0659 who will generate a vaccine transfer form. Vaccine Management will transfer the vaccine in Impact for you. (Providers will no longer be able to transfer vaccine themselves.)
5. Pack vaccine in an appropriate box to maintain cold chain with a copy of the vaccine transfer form. (A copy of the transfer form will be faxed to you. Be sure to keep a copy for your records.)
6. Call UPS or another delivery service, if necessary, to ship the vaccine to the receiving provider.

*For more information on maintaining cold chain during transport go to:

<http://www.eziz.org/assets/docs/IMM-983.pdf>

Once vaccine is received by receiving provider:

1. Provider will check to see that the vaccine transfer form matches the vaccine they received.
2. Provider will immediately place vaccine in the appropriate storage unit.
3. Provider will call Vaccine Management at 1-800-569-0659 to notify them of receipt of vaccine transfer.
4. Vaccine Management will confirm that receiving provider has correct vaccine.

*Please do not attempt to receive or accept the transfer into IMPACT.

If vaccine received does not match the transfer form:

1. Vaccine Management will call the transferring provider to correct.
2. Vaccine Management will enter the rejected transfer back into the transferring provider's inventory.
3. Vaccine Management will enter new transfer form to match what the receiving provider actually received.
4. Vaccine Management will call the receiving provider with correction.
5. Transfer process is complete.

FAQ's on Live Viruses

What is a live virus?

Live vaccines are derived from “wild,” or disease-causing viruses or bacteria. Wild viruses or bacteria are attenuated, or weakened, in a laboratory, usually by repeated culturing. For example, the measles virus used as a vaccine today was isolated from a child with measles disease in 1954. Almost 10 years of serial passage using tissue culture media was required to transform the wild virus into attenuated vaccine virus.

Which vaccines are “live”?

Live vaccines include measles, mumps, rubella, varicella, zoster, yellow fever, rotavirus, intranasal influenza and oral typhoid.

If all needed live vaccines are not administered during the same visit, does one need to wait a certain amount of time before administering other vaccines?

If two live vaccines are not given on the same day, they need to be spaced at least 4 weeks apart.

Can people receiving the intranasal influenza pass the vaccine viruses to others?

The virus would need to revert back to the wild type to reproduce the virus. The odds of reversion to wild-type influenza are 1 in 100,000,000,000,000,000,000 (one in 100 quintillion) replication cycles, more than a millennium in time. While the nasal spray flu vaccine does contain live viruses (unlike the flu shot), viruses are attenuated (weakened) and **cannot cause flu illness**. The weakened viruses are cold-adapted, which means they are designed to only cause replication at the cooler temperatures found within the nose. The viruses cannot replicate in the lungs or other areas where warmer temperatures exist.

Can pregnant women and immunosuppressed persons receive live vaccines?

No, live vaccines should not be administered to women known to be pregnant or to those who are severely immunosuppressed. However, inactivated vaccines may be administered to pregnant women for whom they are indication (HPV should be deferred). Inactivated vaccines are also safe to use in immunosuppressed persons but the response to the vaccine may be decreased.

If you have any questions, please contact the Maine Immunization Program at:
Phone (207) 287-3746 or (800) 867-4775

