

IMPORTANT INFORMATION REGARDING CHANGE IN SHIPPING PACKAGING FOR VARIVAX[®] (Varicella Virus Vaccine Live) and ZOSTAVAX[®] (Zoster Vaccine Live)

Merck has replaced the use of dry ice with frozen gel packs in the shipping packages for VARIVAX and ZOSTAVAX.

**The receiver must immediately open the container
and store the vaccine in a freezer.**

VARIVAX and ZOSTAVAX are packed with frozen gel packs in the shipping container. Upon delivery, the gel packs should feel cold and may be pliable to the touch. The quantity of gel packs placed in the container is based on carefully determined guidelines. These Merck guidelines take into account the maximum temperature to which the container will be exposed, the time in transit, and the need to keep the vaccine at the appropriate temperature during shipping. The product shipped with the gel packs may not be as cold as product previously shipped with dry ice.

An adequate number of gel packs were placed in this shipping container to maintain proper temperatures for THREE (3) DAYS from the shipment date located on the packing list.

If the container is received after the time period described above, contact the Merck Order Management Center immediately for replacement instructions at **1-800-MERCK-RX (1-800-637-2579)**. Such requests for replacement must be received by Merck within 15 days of the original shipment.

- The vaccine is located in the lower compartment – **Store the vaccine in the FREEZER immediately.** Any freezer, including frost-free, that has a separate sealed freezer door and reliably maintains a temperature between –58°F and +5°F (–50°C to –15°C) is acceptable.
- Merck does not recommend reuse of our shipping materials, including gel packs and shipping containers, to further transport vaccine products as improper re-packaging and transportation could impact the stability of the vaccine.
- The gel packs contain water-based non-toxic gel. Please dispose of these packs with regular trash.

Store the diluent (located in the top compartment underneath the cardboard cap) in a refrigerator [36°F to 46°F (2°C to 8°C)] or at room temperature [68°F to 77°F (20°C to 25°C)].