Mass Clinics – Vaccine Handling Tips

Transporting Vaccines

- Keep vaccines in original packaging and maintain the packing configuration when removing vaccines from, or returning vaccines to, the cooler
- Use large coolers for large quantities of vaccine
- If the vaccine is in a large cooler for more than 4 hours, monitor cooler temperatures with a minimum –maximum thermometer
- Use all vaccines in one large cooler before opening the next large cooler
- Transport vaccines directly from the Health Unit refrigerator to the clinic setting
- Return vaccines directly to the Health Unit refrigerator after the clinic
- Transport diluents separately, unless they have been cooled in the refrigerator for 24 hours prior to transport

At The Clinic Setting

- Use small insulated coolers at each work station
- Maintain the appropriate packing configuration when removing or returning vaccines to the small cooler
- Avoid preloading syringes
- Mark the date of opening on all multi-dose vials

KEY PRINCIPLES:
- The insulated coolers used for transport is the “refrigerator” in the clinic setting
- Open these coolers only when necessary
- Monitor the temperature in these large coolers

Protect the vaccines. Protect your patients.