# Storage And Cold Chain of Vaccines

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# Storage And Cold Chain of Vaccines

- To ensure the efficacy and quality of vaccines, they must be handled properly during transportation and storage
- If vaccines are stored and handled incorrectly, they will lose some or all of their effectiveness
- The sensitivity of vaccines to heat and light varies with different vaccines
- If a vaccine is frozen, it will lose all or part of its effectiveness, and you cannot use it at all
- Only a properly stored vaccine is effective

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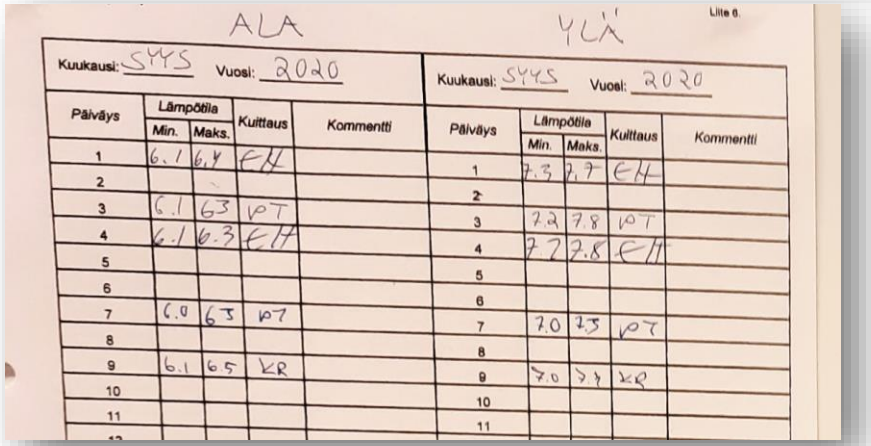
# Main Facts of Vaccine Storage (1/3)

- The correct temperature for transportation and storage of vaccines is +2 - +8 C
- Monitor and record the temperature of the refrigerator every day to ensure proper storage conditions for vaccines
- The refrigerator in which vaccines are stored should have a minimum to maximum thermometer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# Main Facts of Vaccine Storage (2/3)

- Make sure that vaccines are stored properly in a refrigerator
- Store the vaccines on the center shelves of the refrigerator, off the back wall (and off the boxes in the door)
- Vaccine packages must not be placed too tightly on the shelves to allow air to circulate and heat to be evenly distributed



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# Main Facts of Vaccine Storage (3/3)

- Arrange vaccine packages so that those with shorter expiry dates are placed at the front and used first
- Make sure that the vaccines are not exposed to sunlight or bright light for too long
- Defrost the refrigerator regularly if it does not have an automatic defrosting system


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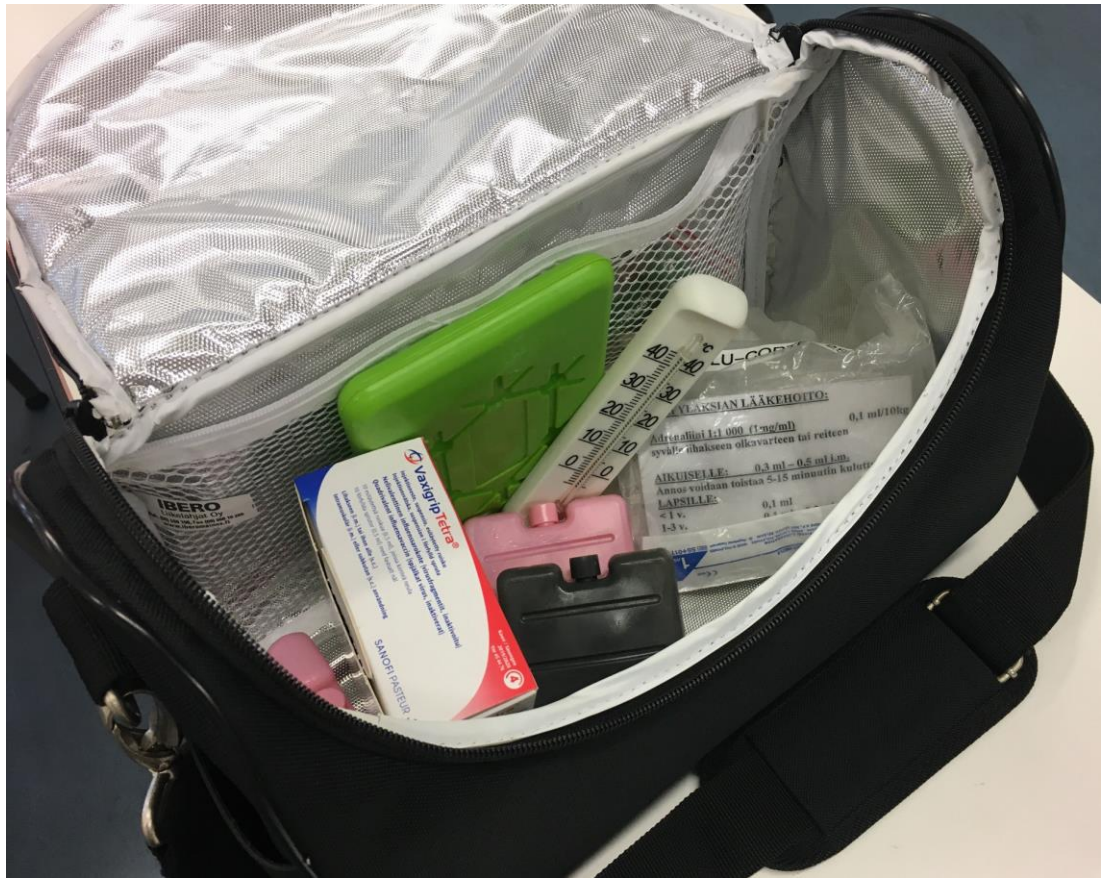
# What Is a Cold Chain?

- The ”cold chain” is a term used to describe the cold temperature conditions in which certain products need to be kept during storage and distribution (Green Book)
- The aim of the cold chain is to ensure that vaccines are transported and stored at the right temperature (+2 - + 8 C) until the point of vaccine administration

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# Cold Chain

- Everyone is responsible for maintaining the cold chain of the vaccine
- Vaccines should be transported in validated cool boxes and cool packs
- During transportation, cool boxes should be equipped with refrigerator coolers
- Cool packs should be stored in a refrigerator, not in a freezer compartment
- Cool packs must not come into contact with vaccine packages
- Remember: a frozen or warmed vaccine should not be used

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# References


- Government UK. The Green book. Chapter 3. Storage, distribution and disposal of vaccines. https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/storage-distribution-and-disposal-of-vaccines-the-green-book-chapter-3



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