

CDC Storage and Handling Instructions (*Continued*)

Zoster (Shingles) Vaccine

Shipping Requirements

Vaccine: Should be shipped in insulated container. Must be shipped with dry ice only, at 5°F (-15°C) or colder. Should be delivered within 2 days.

Diluent: May be shipped with vaccine, but do not place in container with dry ice.

Conditions upon Arrival

Should be frozen. Vaccine should remain at 5°F (-15°C) or colder until arrival at the healthcare facility. Dry ice should still be present in the shipping container when vaccine is delivered.

If you have questions about the condition of the material at the time of delivery, you should 1) immediately place material in recommended storage; and 2) then follow your state health department immunization program policy and contact either the Manufacturer's Quality Control office or the immunization program for guidance.

Storage Requirements

Vaccine: Zostavax SHOULD BE STORED FROZEN at an average temperature of -15°C (+5°F) or colder until it is reconstituted for injection. Any freezer, including frost-free, that has a separate sealed freezer door and reliably maintains an average temperature of -15°C or colder is acceptable for storing Zostavax.

Zostavax **with 15-month expiry dating** may be stored and/or transported at refrigerator temperature (2° to 8°C, 36° to 46°F) for up to 72 continuous hours prior to reconstitution. Vaccine stored at 2° to 8°C (36° to 46°F) that is not used within 72 hours of removal from -15°C (+5°F) storage should be discarded.

Protect unconstituted vaccine from light at all times, since such exposure may inactivate the vaccine viruses.

Diluent: May be refrigerated or stored at room temperature (68° to 77°F [20° to 25°C]). **Do not freeze or expose to freezing temperatures.**

Shelf Life

Check expiration date on vial.

Instructions for Reconstitution and Use

Reconstitute just before use according to the manufacturer's instructions. Use only the diluent supplied to reconstitute the vaccine.

Shelf Life After Reconstitution, Thawing or Opening

Single-Dose Vials: Discard reconstituted vaccine if it is not used **within 30 minutes** of reconstitution. **Do not freeze reconstituted vaccine.**

Special Instructions

Rotate stock so that the earliest dated material is used first.

If this vaccine is stored at a temperature warmer than 5°F (-15°C), it will result in a loss of potency and a reduced shelf life. If a power outage or some other situation occurs that results in the vaccine storage temperature rising above the recommended temperature, the healthcare provider should contact Merck at 1-800-MERCK-90 for an evaluation of the product potency before using the vaccine.

Note: All vaccine materials should be disposed of using medical waste disposal procedures. Contact the state health department for details.