



Overview

Vaccines should always be stored in their original packaging whenever possible as most are light sensitive. Failure to properly store vaccine results in compromised vaccines.

ACCEPTABLE CIRCUMSTANCES

There are limited circumstances that prevent vaccines from being stored in their original packaging including:

- Storage in purpose-built, vending style vaccine storage units
- Providers who split boxes of vaccines to help minimize waste due to small patient populations
- Permissible borrowing that adheres to the Pennsylvania Immunization Program borrowing policy
- Vaccine transport
- Single dose vaccine orders that are not shipped in a cardboard box

ACCEPTABLE STORAGE

Commercially available pharmaceutical products designed for light and moisture control for vaccine, antibody, and medication viability preservation should be used whenever possible. Acceptable storage options for the above circumstances include:

- Purpose-built, vending style vaccine storage units
- Purpose-built vaccine storage bags
- Mylar bags
- Brown paper bags
- Opaque envelopes
- Opaque plastic bags or clear plastic bags lined with opaque paper



More Information can be found in the CDC's [Vaccine Storage and Handling Toolkit](#).