

Subject: **Avian Influenza Virus Vaccine, Subtype H5 or Subtype H7,  
Killed Virus Vaccines**

**Q. What refrigerated storage capacity should I plan for the vaccine?**

**A.** Your specific requirements for refrigeration will depend on the size of the local populations you have to vaccinate and the number of facilities that hold the populations.

Our manufacturers package their vaccine in 500 ml/1000 dose containers. One container of 1,000 doses is the minimum shipment size. Each container is 4.5 inches tall by 3 inches in diameter. It weighs slightly less than 1.2 pounds. We will ship one or two containers in a 16x10x10 inch TC-34 insulated shipping box with 2 one-pound ice packs. Shipment weight is 4 lbs. We may use larger boxes that hold as many as 20 containers but try to limit the weight of a single box to less than 25 lb for ease of handling.

Once vaccine arrives, you will need a method to keep it at 2-7° C while it is in storage, staging, in transit, and on site. The vaccine will stay at 2-7° C in its original TC-34 insulated shipping box for approximately one day after arrival. If you anticipate handling large amounts of vaccine, we recommend you rent a reefer van for each of the sites where you expect to store large amounts of vaccine if the sites do not have their own refrigerated equipment.

**Q. Is diluent included in vaccine shipments?**

**A.** Avian Influenza Vaccine, Killed Virus, is an adjuvanted liquid, ready-to-use vaccine. It does not require diluent.

**Q. Does your vaccine shipment include needles and syringes?**

**A.** Not yet. We are evaluating whether to include needles and repeating syringes in the stockpile.

**Q. What environmental conditions should the vaccine be kept at?**

**A.** Vaccine must be stored at 2-7° C. Freezing or excessive or prolonged heat will destroy the vaccine. Exposure to light or immersion in liquid will also destroy the vaccine. Since the oil-adjuvanted vaccine is viscous and difficult to administer at low temperature, we suggest you warm the vaccine to 18-30° C immediately before use and use it within 4 hours of warming.

**Q. How should I dispose of unused quantities of vaccine?**

**A.** Disposal of the vaccine requires no special attention. However, you should use the entire contents of a vaccine container immediately after you open it. If you cannot use the vaccine within 4 hours of opening it, you should discard it to prevent the inadvertent administration of contaminated or compromised vaccine. You should dispose of all vaccine you take to a location whether you use it or not. Otherwise, you run the risk of spreading infection due to inadequate decontamination of unused vaccine or administering vaccine at another location that decontamination has compromised.



**APHIS National Veterinary Stockpile  
Questions & Answers**

**Q. Whom should I contact for information on vaccination protocols; i.e. how to, where to, complications, disposal?**

**A.** For questions, concerns, or complications related to the use of this product, contact the Program Coordinator at the USDA-APHIS Center for Veterinary Biologics, 515-232-5785.