

CoolPac® Esky for Vaccine Delivery

KEY MESSAGE: Please return CoolPac® (and all CoolPac® components) back to the supplying Hospital Pharmacy

Background/Purpose

Correct vaccine storage and handling is an important factor in preventing and eliminating many common vaccine-preventable diseases. Yet each year, vaccines are wasted due to storage and handling errors. For vaccines to be safe and effective, they must maintain “cold chain” during transportation and storage. ‘Cold chain’ is when vaccines stay within the safe temperature range of +2°C to +8°C.

Northern Territory (NT) Hospitals send out vaccines to approximately 70 remote communities across the NT, and maintaining the cold chain during their distribution can be a challenge due to the large distances and high temperatures in the NT.

NT Health has committed to improving the vaccine program through the use of Coolpac® transport containers.

Some facts

- A vaccine esky is a purpose-built product. It has thick walls and is significantly more expensive than a standard esky. CoolPac® transport containers are an example of a vaccine esky.
- Coolpac® eskies are a re-usable, insulated container system which has been validated to maintain vaccine appropriate temperature between +2°C to +8°C degrees for up to 96 hours.
- Coolpac® eskies are currently in use across the NT for a range of vaccine distributions and have been shown to reduce wastage of vaccines due to cold chain breaches.
- NT Health will be sending vaccines using CoolPac® eskies whenever possible and will be working with communities to prioritise the use of these eskies where transport and distance to sites requires improved cold chain practice.

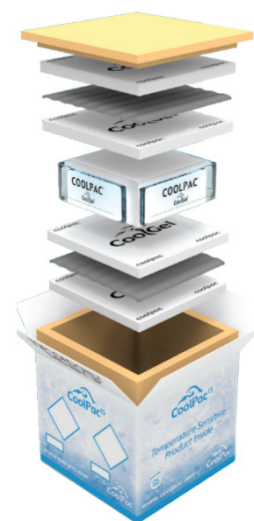


Figure 1: Coolpac® Esky Including Components

What you should do if you receive a CoolPac®

Vaccine stock delivered in the CoolPac® eskies should be transferred to an appropriate medication fridge as soon as possible. To ensure CoolPac® eskies are available to deliver vaccines across all of the NT, **CoolPac® eskies must be returned to an NT hospital.** CoolPacs® have multiple re-usable components, including; outer cardboard box, polyurethane container (including lid), inner cardboard box which holds the vaccines, and different size gel packs and sheets. **PLEASE RETURN ALL COMPONENTS OF THE COOLPAC® ESKIES.**

Unlike previous polystyrene containers that were not re-usable, CoolPac® eskies are designed to be re-used and used long term. Returning CoolPac® eskies in a timely manner to NT hospitals reduces waste as well as improves vaccine distribution, storage and handling to all communities.

When you receive a CoolPac® esky it may include a checklist to ensure all components are included, and a return address sticker to enable return to the supplying NT hospital pharmacy department.

Contact

For further details or queries please contact your local NT hospital pharmacy department (call the hospital phone number and ask to be transferred to the pharmacy department).