

Frequently Asked Questions

Why did this happen?

Vaccines must be stored at specific temperatures to remain effective. We have found in our process vaccines were exposed to cooler than recommended temperatures. According to the manufacturer, this means they may no longer be effective. This affects some vaccines but not all vaccines given in the clinics.

How do I know the new vaccine won't have the same problem?

We have updated our process to ensure the vaccine is stored and transported with constant monitoring of the temperature to ensure it never falls out of range.

Is it safe to repeat so many vaccines?

Yes, this is safe, and we recommend revaccination for full protection. Your provider will follow nationally recognized clinical standards when developing a revaccination schedule for your child.

Many children end up receiving additional doses of routine immunizations, most commonly after their immunization records have been lost, but also when they have received doses that are weakened after being stored too cold or too hot.

Receiving extra doses is recommended by national authorities (e.g., ACIP, AAP, AAFP) in these situations to make sure that children are protected against dangerous diseases.

The possible reactions that might occur after extra doses of vaccines are the same as those seen after the usual doses, such as temporary swelling and pain where the shot was injected. These possible reactions are described on the [Vaccine Information Statements](#) given during routine immunization.

Throughout our lives we are frequently exposed to germs that we have seen before, often by having no symptoms, sometimes by having mild symptoms, and sometimes by having a boost to our immune systems. An extra vaccine dose has similar effects.

Routine vaccines can require five or more doses in childhood. Repeating one of these doses is just as safe as receiving the next routine dose in the series.

References

- [ACIP General Best Practice Guidelines for Immunization](#)
- [CHOP Vaccine Education Center](#)

Did getting the inactivated vaccine hurt me?

No, getting the compromised vaccine is not harmful. The problem is that you might not be protected from getting the disease, so you need to get the vaccine again.

Will this impact the ability for my child to attend school?

This will not impact the ability for your child to attend school. We have been in communication with your school superintendent's office, and this will not impact your child's ability to attend school. We do, however, advise that you contact your child's primary care provider to schedule an appointment for vaccine administration, as this is necessary to ensure that they are fully protected against vaccine-related illnesses.

How much will this cost?

Vaccines will be repeated at no cost to you.

For children under 2 years, what is the new immunization schedule?

There is no simple answer here as it will depend on your child's current age, what, if any combination vaccines may have been received and catch up schedules. Please discuss this further with your provider.

Where can I go to receive more information?

<http://www.vchca.org/vaccinesupport>

Were vaccines given at Public Health clinics affected?

No, vaccines given at Public Health clinics were not affected. Certain vaccines given at our medical clinics were affected. Patients who were affected will be contacted directly.

Were vaccines received by the fire department staff at the fire stations affected?

No, Flu Vaccines and PPDs that the fire department received at their stations were not affected by the vaccine event. These vaccines come direct from Public Health and are safe. However, if they received the vaccine at EHS they will need to be revaccinated.

What medications were affected?

Based on our data, medications that may have been exposed to cooler than recommended temperatures and potentially compromised their effectiveness include the following:

- Tuberculin Purified Protein Derivative (used for tuberculosis skin tests)
- Injectable Penicillin
- Insulin
- Rho(D) Immune Globulin

All patients who received any of the affected medications will receive a letter or be contacted directly by a nurse or provider.

Is there anything I need to do?

Patients who received an affected medication will be provided with further instruction in the notification letter they receive. Patients may also be contacted directly by a nurse or provider in addition to the notification letter. If no further action is needed, this will also be stated in the notification letter.

I received affected Tuberculin PPD. What do I need to do?

Tuberculin PPD (tuberculosis skin test) is used to detect a tuberculosis infection. Since the tuberculosis skin test may have been ineffective, it may not have detected a tuberculosis infection if you have a tuberculosis infection. We recommend that you receive a repeat test to ensure accurate results. In those patients who have had a positive result, a follow up Quantiferon test, or another subsequent tuberculosis test after receiving the affected tuberculosis skin test, no further action is needed.

I received affected Injectable Penicillin. What do I need to do?

Injectable Penicillin is used to treat different types of infections. For most infections, repeat dosing would not be beneficial if the acute illness has resolved. For chronic infections, a nurse or provider will be contacting you for further instruction.

I received affected insulin. What do I need to do?

Patients who received insulin injections in the clinic setting should have had repeat blood glucose testing after receiving the medication. There is no further action needed as your home insulin was not affected.

I received affected Rho(D) Immune Globulin. What do I need to do?

Rho(D) Immune Globulin is given during pregnancy and at delivery, if needed based on the baby's blood type. This medication is given to pregnant women whose blood type is Rh-negative to keep the baby's blood from interacting with the mother's. Patients who have already delivered were provided another dose of Rho(D) Immune Globulin in the hospital (if needed) and no further action is needed. Patients who are still pregnant have been contacted by their provider to schedule another dose of Rho(D) Immune Globulin.

How many patients received these affected medications?

The following number of patients received the affected medications listed:

Tuberculin PPD	6,682
Injectable Penicillin	527
Insulin	90
Rho(D) Immune Globulin	17