



## Memorandum

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**TO:** Directors, Health Service Regions  
Immunization Program Managers, Health Service Regions  
Directors, Local Health Departments  
Immunization Program Managers, Local Health Departments  
Texas Vaccines for Children (TVFC) Providers

**FROM:** Karen Hess, Manager  
Vaccine Services Group

**THRU:** Jack C. Sims, Manager  
Immunization Branch *Jack C. Sims*  
*10-11-10*

**DATE:** October 11, 2010

**SUBJECT:** Texas Vaccines for Children Program: Measles/Mumps/Rubella/Varicella  
(MMRV) Vaccine Shipping Change

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Regional and local health departments should share the following message with all clinics enrolled in the Texas Vaccines for Children (TVFC) program.

Merck, the manufacturer of ProQuad<sup>®</sup>, the Measles/Mumps/Rubella/Varicella (MMRV) vaccine, has determined that exposing this vaccine to temperatures lower than -58°F (-50°C) could affect vaccine potency. Previously MMRV was shipped on dry ice, however the use of dry ice may subject the product to temperatures colder than -58°F (-50°C). The vaccine is now shipped using six refrigerant packs. Once received, providers must store the vaccine in the freezer at temperatures between -58°F and +5°F (-50°C to -15°C). There are no changes at this time for MMR or varicella vaccines.

Attached is a flier from Merck explaining new packaging and shipping guidelines for ProQuad. If you have any questions, call 1-877-VAX-MERCK (1-877-829-6372) to speak with a Merck Vaccine Account Specialist, or contact your local health department or health service region representative.

Attachment



## Introducing a new package for ProQuad

**Place product in freezer** immediately upon opening this package, as directed

- Shipping capacity of 80 doses per container.
- Invoice and packing slip are separate from product, keeping them secure and dry.
- Diluent is conveniently located in the top layer of the box.
- Bubble bag provides added protection for the product.
- 6 refrigerant packs protect product on all sides to keep it stable and cool.
  - Replaces the use of dry ice during shipment.
  - To maintain potency, the product must be stored frozen between –58°F and +5°F (–50°C to –15°C)
  - Do not store on dry ice. Use of dry ice may subject product to temperature colder than –58°F (–50°C).

If you have any questions, call 1-877-VAX-MERCK (1-877-829-6372) to speak with a Vaccine Account Specialist.



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