

Questions and Answers: The National Veterinary Stockpile and Foot-and- Mouth Disease Vaccine

The National Veterinary Stockpile (NVS) program, coordinated by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), provides support to States, Tribes, and Territories responding to damaging animal disease outbreaks. Within 24 hours, the NVS can provide veterinary countermeasures—including certain types of animal vaccines, antivirals, supplies, equipment, and response services—to animal health officials in affected areas. To learn more about this program, see the NVS factsheet on APHIS' Web site at www.aphis.usda.gov/publications/animal_health/content/printable_version/veterinary_stockpile.pdf.

One of the vaccines NVS provides is the foot-and-mouth disease (FMD) vaccine.

Q. Does NVS hold FMD vaccine in its inventory?

A. We do not hold FMD vaccine. Instead, if FMD vaccine is needed, we work with the North American FMD Vaccine Bank to obtain it.

The North American FMD Vaccine Bank is administered jointly by the chief veterinary officers (CVO) of Canada, Mexico, and the United States. The vaccine bank maintains a supply of FMD vaccine antigen concentrates as a contingency to address an outbreak of this disease anywhere in North America.

Q. How can an NVS partner request FMD vaccine?

A. The first step is for the CVOs of Canada, Mexico, and the United States to approve the use of FMD vaccine. For the United States, this approval is typically requested jointly through the State animal health official and the APHIS area veterinarian-in-charge. After receiving approval, the NVS partner will work with the NVS to coordinate FMD vaccine requests; we will, in turn, facilitate the requests with the North American FMD Vaccine Bank.

Q. What should I do if I receive vaccine that is outside of the specified storage temperature (2–8 °C)?

A. If you detect temperature excursions (i.e., either **above or below** the acceptable temperature range) with the vaccine, follow these procedures:

- 1) Immediately move and store the vaccine in an isolated area of a refrigerator/storage room confirmed to be in the acceptable temperature range.
- 2) Clearly mark the affected vaccine with "DO NOT USE" labels. (Do NOT discard the affected vaccine.)
- 3) Complete the requested information below.
- 4) Immediately email this information and the appropriate TEMPERATURE MONITORING LOG to nvs@aphis.usda.gov and call (301) 851-3595.
- 5) Collect the shipping documents and temperature monitoring devices from the shipping container for analysis and provide these to the NVS Mobile Logistics Team, if onsite. If NVS personnel are not onsite, consult with the NVS Deployment Management Team by emailing nvs@aphis.usda.gov and calling (301) 851-3595.

Make sure to record the following information:

- Date
- Time and time zone
- Name and telephone number of person detecting temperature excursion
- Temperature of refrigerator/container/storage room at time of excursion
- Estimated amount of time temperature was outside acceptable range
- Ambient air temperature (estimated if not recorded)
- The commercial carrier and shipping information (if excursion was detected upon receipt)

You also need to record the information below for affected vaccines using a separate line for each lot/serial number:

- Vaccine, manufacturer, and lot/serial number
- Number of containers
- Number of doses
- Actions taken

Q. Where can I find more information about FMD and other animal vaccines?

A. For questions, concerns, or complications related to the use of animal vaccines, visit APHIS' veterinary biologics Web site at www.aphis.usda.gov/animal_health/vet_biologics. You can also contact the Center for Veterinary Biologics program coordinator at (515) 232-5785.

In an emergency, contact the NVS through our 24/7 hotline at 1-800-940-6524.

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