

To

The Director (Family Welfare)

All States and UTs

Subject: Guidelines for use of vaccines with VVMs

The Government of India has recently introduced Vaccine Vial Monitor (VVM) in all the vaccines under UIP. A VVM is a label containing a heat-sensitive material which is placed on a vaccine vial to register cumulative heat exposure over time.

- It may be noted that the VVM reflects the heat stability of the vaccine to which it is attached and registers the cumulative heat exposure over time thereby reflecting the cold chain of the vaccine.
- The combined effects of time and temperature cause the inner square of the VVM to darken, gradually and irreversibly.
- The **discard point** of any vaccine with VVM is when the colour of the inside square area is same as outer circle of the VVM as seen under light. The vaccine is to be discarded if the inner square area is of same colour or darker than the outer circle area.
- The vaccine must be received, used and supplied till the **VVM is usable** i.e. it has not reached the discard point.
- The VVM enables the storekeeper to pick out first those vaccines for use which are most heat exposed batches rather than "first in, first out".
- The VVM is to ensure that vaccine administered has not been damaged by heat.

Recently after introduction of the VVM it has been noted that some State/UTs are refusing to accept usable vaccines (i.e VVM not attained discard point). This may lead to excessive vaccine wastage and disruption of the Universal Immunization Programme. All States/UTs are requested to strictly abide by these guidelines and accept all the vaccines with usable VVM.

Yours faithfully

(Dr Naresh Goel)
AC(UIP)

Copy to

- All State/ UTs EPI officers
- All states/UTs CCOs

Copy for Information to

- Addl. DG (Store) MSO, West Block, No 1 Wing 6 R K Puram, New Delhi
- ADG/DDG/DADG/CMO-I/C, GMSDs Mumbai, Chennai, Kolkata and Karnal.