

## Spray administration of vaccine to day-old-chicks

**Spray administration to day-old-chicks is a simple and effective method of administering live vaccines. It is usually performed at the hatchery, but chicks can be spray vaccinated on arrival in the brooding shed whilst still in the chick transport boxes.**

The two critical factors for effective coarse spray vaccination are:

1. Excellent quality water to ensure the vaccine stays alive.
2. Uniform delivery of the vaccine to all the chicks using a correctly adjusted sprayer.

### Preparation before vaccination day

1. Use a small household sprayer with an adjustable spray nozzle. This sprayer should be dedicated for spraying vaccine only and not used for any other purpose.
2. Adjust the spray nozzle to give a spray of uniformly sized droplets that spread out evenly and quickly settle. Do not use a fine mist that hangs in the air - adjust the nozzle and / or reduce the pressure. Conversely, do not use a spray so coarse that it resembles a stream.
3. Practice the spraying technique using empty chick transport boxes. Use a sweeping action to spray over each chick transport box for 1 - 2 seconds and evenly deliver 10 - 12 ml (maximum).
4. Determine the volume of water required for administration of the vaccine. Guide: 100 - 120 ml clean cool non-chlorinated water per 1000 chicks.
5. Water used for administering live vaccine must not contain chlorine. Chlorine kills the vaccine. For small volumes of water it is convenient to purchase high quality bottled water.

### On vaccination day

1. Put the required volume of cool clean water in a clean plastic mixing container.
2. Open the vaccine vial by removing the metal seal and rubber stopper. Dissolve the vaccine with the water. Replace the rubber stopper and shake gently.
3. Add the dissolved vaccine to the water and rinse the vial and stopper in the water.
4. Swirl the reconstituted vaccine to mix thoroughly.
5. Pour the reconstituted vaccine into the sprayer reservoir.
6. Immediately start spraying the chicks. A light spray over the chicks is sufficient. Simply let the spray droplets settle onto the chicks from a height of 500 - 600 mm.

### After vaccination

1. Document the vaccination in flock / shed records.
2. Wash out the sprayer and rinse several times in hot clean water. Do not use detergent or sanitiser.
3. Store the sprayer in a dust free cabinet.

### N.B.

1. Follow the instructions on the package insert carefully. Do not take short cuts.
2. Never give less than one full dose of vaccine per bird - 1000 doses is for up to 1000 birds.
3. Do not let the vaccine die. Use clean water without chlorine. After reconstitution use the vaccine immediately. Keep the vaccine away from the sun.

