

Be Prepared for Vaccine Fridge Malfunctions and Power Failures

CALL TO REPORT	<u>Acceptable alternative storage facilities for vaccine:</u>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Any fridge temperature outside of +2.0° C and +8.0° C. ➤ A current or recent fridge malfunction or power failure. ➤ If there is going to be a planned power outage. <p style="text-align: center;">Immunization Program Healthcare Provider Line: 705-721-7520 (toll-free 1-877-721-7520) ext 8806 Monday to Friday, 8:30 am - 4:30 pm</p> <p style="text-align: center;">** DO NOT DISCARD OR USE ANY EXPOSED VACCINE UNTIL VACCINE STABILITY HAS BEEN ASSESSED BY HEALTH UNIT**</p>	<p>A back up fridge that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Is properly functioning (has not malfunctioned or has back-up power source during power failure). ✓ Is accessible (such as a nearby healthcare provider’s office). ✓ Has been inspected and approved by health unit. ✓ Is monitored by a min/max digital thermometer/datalogger. <p>Any health unit branch office during business hours:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Monday to Friday, 8:30 am – 4:30 pm, except for statutory holidays. ✓ Closed 12:30 – 1:30 pm for lunch, except for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Barrie, which does not close for lunch. • Gravenhurst, which is closed 12:00 -1:00 pm daily.

Steps to Take During Vaccine Fridge Malfunction (temperature outside of + 2.0° C and + 8.0° C)	
1.	Record the temperatures (current, minimum, maximum) and the time when the malfunction is first noticed.
2.	Check the thermometer probe placement in the fridge and that the cord is not damaged. Change the thermometer batteries. If available, use a spare digital min/max thermometer to compare against digital thermometer in fridge.
3.	Place exposed vaccines in a bag and label it “DO NOT USE”.
4.	Prepare a vaccine cooler according to the SMDHU resource: How to Pack a Vaccine Cooler . Ensure the temperature is between +2.0° C and + 8.0° C before packing the vaccines in the cooler.
5.	<p>a) If an alternative storage facility is available: Record the transport temperatures once the vaccines are placed in the cooler; during transport; and upon arrival at the alternative storage facility. Clear minimum and maximum temperatures after each reading. Record the time when the vaccines are back being stored within + 2.0° C and + 8.0° C at the alternative storage facility.</p> <p>b) If an acceptable alternative storage facility is NOT available (outside of health unit’s business hours): Record the time once the vaccines are placed in the vaccine cooler. Monitor the temperatures of the cooler. You may need to replace the ice packs to maintain the temperature range. As soon as health unit is open, bring vaccines to local branch office for safe storage, following Step 5a.</p>

Steps to Take During Power Failure					
1.	Record the temperatures (current, minimum, maximum) and the time when power failure is first noticed. Reset thermometer.				
2.	<p>a) If the power failure is expected to be less than 4 hours: Leave the vaccine in the fridge and monitor temperatures frequently. Place “DO NOT USE” sign on the fridge door. Do not open the fridge door (as this will make the fridge warmer by allowing cool air to leave and warm room air to enter). Try to keep room temperature low by closing window blinds and turning on a fan.</p> <p>b) If the power failure is expected to be more than 4 hours and/or the fridge temperature is outside of +2.0° C and +8.0° C range, the vaccines need to be moved.</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 10%; text-align: center;">i)</td> <td>If an alternative storage facility is available: Follow Steps 3, 4, and 5a under <i>Steps to Take During Fridge/Equipment Malfunction</i>.</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">ii)</td> <td>If an alternative storage facility is NOT available (outside of health unit’s business hours): Follow Steps 3, 4 and 5b under <i>Steps to Take During Fridge/Equipment Malfunction</i>. As soon as health unit is open, bring vaccines to local branch office for safe storage following Step 5a under <i>Steps to Take During Fridge/Equipment Malfunction</i>.</td> </tr> </table>	i)	If an alternative storage facility is available: Follow Steps 3, 4, and 5a under <i>Steps to Take During Fridge/Equipment Malfunction</i> .	ii)	If an alternative storage facility is NOT available (outside of health unit’s business hours): Follow Steps 3, 4 and 5b under <i>Steps to Take During Fridge/Equipment Malfunction</i> . As soon as health unit is open, bring vaccines to local branch office for safe storage following Step 5a under <i>Steps to Take During Fridge/Equipment Malfunction</i>.
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