



# OUT OF RANGE TEMPERATURES?

## Cold Chain Troubleshooting Checklist

Early troubleshooting measures will decrease the amount of vaccine wastage due to a cold chain excursion.

### Maintain vaccine fridge temperatures between +2.0°C and +8.0°C

#### Checking the Fridge:

- Ensure the fridge is plugged in
- Ensure the fridge door remains shut and sealed properly
- Ensure that the freezer has no more than 1cm of ice build-up
- Check that the fridge thermostat is properly set
- Clear items that block air circulation inside and outside of the fridge

#### Checking the Thermometer:

- Change the battery (current / minimum / maximum temperatures **MUST** be recorded first)
- Ensure thermometer is set to the “OUT” position
- Ensure the thermometer display is reading “MIN” and “MAX” (**not** “LO” and “HI” alarm limits)
- Ensure the thermometer display is located outside of the fridge
- Ensure the thermometer probe is located on the center of the middle shelf of the fridge in an empty vaccine box
- Clear the minimum and maximum thermometer readings **after** they are documented

#### How to Report a Cold Chain Excursion:

- Call Public Health** to promptly report all temperatures outside the +2.0°C to +8.0°C range; including all fridge and / or thermometer malfunctions
- If advised by Public Health, complete and fax the Adverse Storage Condition Form with the current 4 week temperature log to 705-743-2897
- Move vaccine (if necessary) and store in a fridge / cooler that is monitored and maintained between +2.0°C and +8.0°C using a digital transport min / max thermometer
  - ✓ Complete a temperature log sheet and refer to the Cold Chain Procedures During a Power Failure poster for instructions on how to transport vaccine
  - ✓ When temporarily storing vaccine in a cooler, ensure temperatures (current / minimum / maximum) are documented and cleared hourly, and with every troubleshooting measure. Rotate ice packs as needed, ensuring that ice packs are not directly touching the vaccine.
- Continue to monitor vaccine by keeping a record of all temperatures (current / minimum / maximum), with times included

Public Health **MUST** be contacted to determine vaccine stability even if the problem has been corrected. Do **NOT** use the vaccine or assume wastage of the vaccine without first speaking to Public Health.

#### For more information, please contact:

Peterborough Public Health, Vaccine Preventable Disease program 705-743-1000, ext. 131