NSW HEALTH
Vaccine Refrigerator Protocol

REFRIGERATOR MONITORING

- **CHECK** refrigerator temperatures twice a day during operational hours and **aim for 5°C**
- **RECORD** the minimum, maximum and current temperatures on the NSW Health vaccine refrigerator temperature chart
- **RESET** the thermometer after recording temperatures
- **ACT** if temperatures are outside of the recommended temperature range of +2°C to +8°C or the fridge has alarmed. Follow the cold chain breach protocol steps below.

COLD CHAIN BREACH STEPS

1. **Take corrective ACTION** where possible. Is the refrigerator door closed, refrigerator plugged in/turned on. Contact engineer if a refrigerator malfunction is suspected.
2. **ISOLATE** affected vaccines/medicines and label ‘DO NOT USE’. Ensure vaccines can continue to be stored between +2°C to +8°C. Vaccines may need to be transferred to an alternative monitored refrigerator or cooler.
3. **REPORT** breach immediately to your manager/delegate Ph:
4. **DOWNLOAD** the data logger or review the back to base or automated temperature monitoring system and investigate potential cause and duration of breach.
5. **NOTIFY** the public health unit (1300 066 055) if temperature is <+2°C or > +8°C (excludes fluctuations up to +12°C ≤ 15 mins e.g. vaccine delivery). PHU will require cold chain breach reporting form, data logging and twice daily temperature readings to assess breach.
6. **DO NOT DISCARD** vaccines until advice is received.
7. **OTHER MEDICATIONS** - Notify facility Pharmacy Service provider. **Do NOT** use medications until advice is received from Pharmacy.

**DOCUMENT** all activity on the back of the ‘NSW Vaccine Refrigerator Temperature Chart - Fortnightly’, i.e. thermostat adjustment, restocking, power outage, data logger removal etc. **SUBMIT an IIMS/ims+** for breaches resulting in vaccine wastage or patient recall and revaccination.

Order the **NSW Vaccine Refrigerator Temperature Chart – Fortnightly** from Toll Stream Direct. **ORDER NUMBER:** NH700227

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