

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 data logger or 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 immunisation products** /medicines and label '**DO NOT USE**'. Ensure immunisation products can continue to be stored between +2° C to +8° C. Immunisation products 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 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.
- i** **OTHER MEDICATIONS** - Notify facility pharmacist.
Do NOT use medications until advice is received from Pharmacy.
- 7** **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 immunisation product wastage and/or patient recall and revaccination.



Order the **NSW Vaccine Refrigerator Temperature Chart – Fortnightly** from Finsbury Green (Sourceit). ORDER NUMBER: NH700227