






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.
-  **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