

Management of Vaccines Exposed to Out-of-Range Refrigerator / Freezer Temperatures

- 1) Staff determines refrigerator temperature is out-of-range.
- 2) Staff immediately records the present temperature and length of time with possible exposure to the wrong temperature. This is determined from the temperature log data.
- 3) Staff should adjust refrigerator control knob and recheck the temperature in one hour. Contact Maintenance if the temperature is still out of range. Refer to the bottom of the temperature log for the corrective actions.
Keep the refrigerator door closed.
<http://www.med.umich.edu/ice/refrig/childvacrefriglog.PDF>
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- 4) Staff makes a list of vaccines stored in the affected refrigerator.
- 5) Staff calls UMHS Drug Information Service (936-8200). Ask the pharmacist to determine if any of the vaccines can be used. **Do not use the affected vaccines until authorized by the pharmacist.** If it is a weekend, check the Stability of Vaccines Exposed to Out-of-Range Refrigerator Temperatures table.
http://ummcpharmweb.med.umich.edu/i/docs?xsdid=361&file=Stability_of_Vaccines.pdf
- 6) Drug Information Service contacts the pharmaceutical manufacturers. This process may take several hours.
- 7) Staff contacts Pharmacy Inventory (936-8238) to order additional vaccines to use until vaccine stability is verified.
- 8) Drug Information notifies site with the stability of vaccines: **If vaccines are STABLE, resume use of vaccines.**
- 9) **If vaccines are NOT STABLE:**
 - a) Call Pharmacy Purchasing (936-8237) to alert pharmacy department that a return of vaccines is expected.
 - b) Bag vaccines and return to pharmacy clearly labeled: **Not for Use, Attn: Unstable inventory return.** Write staff contact's name and phone number, clinic name, and why it is being returned.
 - c) Order replacement vaccines if necessary.
 - d) Notify the local health department if federal Vaccines For Children (VFC) program vaccines are not stable.
 - e) Complete a Risk Management Patient Safety Report Form for unusable medications in a damaged refrigerator.
- 10) HC Manager prints Combined Detail Report from C-Cubed system to determine which patients were immunized with vaccines during the affected time period.
- 11) If **NO PATIENTS** were **IMMUNIZED**, **NO** further **ACTION** is needed.
- 12) If **PATIENTS** were **IMMUNIZED with unstable vaccines:**
 - a) Complete Medication Incident Reports and develop an action plan.
 - b) Identify the Health Center RN to contact patients and assist with questions.
 - c) Use a patient tracking form.
 - d) Notify appropriate Health Center providers/staff.

For questions about the management of vaccines exposed to out of range refrigerator temperatures, please call UMHS Drug Information service at 936-8200