Vaccine Storage and Handling Toolkit

National Center for Immunization and Respiratory Diseases

Site Map

The Cold Chain

What Is the Cold Chain?

Importance of Maintaining the Cold Chain

Vaccine Potency

Vaccine Appearance After Exposure to Inappropriate Storage Conditions

Burden of Cold Chain Failure

References

Storage and Handling Plans

General Recommendations

Routine Vaccine Storage and Handling Plan

Emergency Vaccine Retrieval and Storage Plan

General Guidelines

Advance Preparations

Emergency Actions

Vaccine Personnel

Primary Vaccine Coordinator and Backup Vaccine Coordinator

Other Staff

Training

Vaccine Storage Equipment

General Requirements

Backup Equipment

Equipment Logbooks

Refrigerators and Freezers

Equipment Requirements

General Requirements

Dormitory-Style Units

Frost-Free Versus Manual Defrost Freezers

Equipment Placement

Recommended Temperature Range

Refrigerator

Freezer

Setting and Stabilizing the Temperature

Who Should Adjust the Temperature?

	<u>Thermostats</u>
	How to Adjust the Temperature
	When to Adjust the Temperature
	Stabilizing the Temperature with Water Bottles and Frozen Packs
	Opening the Door
	Vegetable Bins
	Temperature Variations
Equipme	ent Maintenance
	General Principles
	Daily Maintenance Tasks
	Check the Internal Temperature
	Check That the Doors Are Closed
	Weekly Maintenance Tasks
	Defrost the Freezer (Manual Defrost Units ONLY)
	Monthly Maintenance Tasks
	Clean the Coils and Motor
	Clean the Refrigerator and Freezer Compartments
	Check the Door Seals
	Periodic Maintenance Tasks
	Clean the Drain Pan
<u>Thermometers</u>	
Certified	Calibrated Thermometers
Types of	f Certified Calibrated Thermometers
	<u>Overview</u>
	Fluid-Filled Biosafe Liquid Thermometers
	Bi-Metal Stem Thermometers
	Minimum/Maximum Thermometers
	<u>Digital Thermometers</u>
	Chart Recorders
	Digital Data Loggers
	Other Thermometers – NOT RECOMMENDED
Thermor	meter Placement
Thermor	meter Maintenance and Recertification
Cold Chain Monito	<u>ors</u>
General	<u>Principles</u>
Types of	f Cold Chain Monitors
	Heat Indicators
	Freeze Indicators
	<u>Data Loggers</u>
Using C	old Chain Monitors
Vaccine Security	
Protectin	ng the Power Supply

Temperature Alarms

Backup Generators

Emergency Vaccine Retrieval and Storage Plans

Vaccine Storage Practices

Appropriate Vaccine and Diluent Storage Conditions

Live Vaccines

Inactivated Vaccines

Vaccine Light Sensitivity

Lyophilized (Freeze-Dried) Vaccines and Diluents

Vaccine Storage Locations and Positioning

Freezers

Refrigerators

Vaccine Spacing

Vaccine Packaging

Labeling

Storage Containers

Vaccine Boxes

Trays and Containers

Storage of Non-Vaccine Products

Food and Beverages

Medications and Other Biologic Products

Temperature Monitoring

Checking and Recording Temperatures at Least Twice a Day

Reviewing Temperature Logs

Noting Equipment Failures and Room Temperatures

Maintaining Temperature Logs

Using Alarm Systems

Storage Troubleshooting

Handling Inappropriate Vaccine Storage Conditions (Light and Temperature)

Handling Malfunctioning Vaccine Storage Units

General Instructions

Vaccine Storage Unit Is Too Warm

Vaccine Storage Unit Is Too Cold

Vaccine Storage Unit Is Too Noisy

Vaccine Storage Unit Has Stopped

Refrigerator and Freezer Door Problems

Checking the Door Seal

Adjusting the Door Seal

<u>Adju</u>	usting Dropped Doors
<u>Thermometer Problems</u>	
Che	cking Thermometer Placement
Che	cking If the Thermometer Works
Che	cking If the Thermometer Is Accurate
Power Outages	
Adv	ance Preparations
Tem	nperature Considerations
Pow	ver Outage Procedures
Other Immine	nt Emergencies

Selected Biologicals

DT, Td DTaP, DTaP/Hib, DTaP/HepB/IPV,Tdap Hepatitis Vaccines: Hepatitis A, Hepatitis B, Hepatitis A/B, Hepatitis B/Hib Hib HPV IPV TIV LAIV MMR, MR, Measles Virus Vaccine, Mumps Virus Vaccine, Rubella Virus Vaccine **MMRV** MCV **MPSV PCV** PPV Rotavirus Vaccine Varicella (Chickenpox) Vaccine

Vaccine Inventory Management

Zoster (Shingles) Vaccine

Vaccine Access **Expiration Dates** Interpreting Expiration Dates What to Do with Expired and Mishandled Vaccine or Diluent **Exceptions to the Expiration Date** Transferring Vaccine or Diluent That Cannot Be Used Before Expiration **Expiration of Different Vaccine Products Stock Rotation** Inventory Accounting **General Recommendations**

Stock Records
Tally Sheets
Recording New Shipments
Recording Administered, Wasted, Spoiled, Expired, and Transferred Doses
Counting Stock
Vaccine Stock Calculations and Vaccine Ordering

Vaccine Shipments

Standard Operating Procedures

Receiving and Unpacking Vaccine Shipments

Receiving Vaccine Shipments

Picking Up Vaccine Shipments

Checking the Condition of a Shipment

Storing and Documenting Vaccine Shipments Upon Arrival

Transporting Vaccine to Off-Site Clinics

General Recommendations

Transporting Varicella-Containing Vaccines

Transporting Diluent

Packing Vaccine for Transport to Off-Site Clinics

Monitoring Temperatures During Off-Site Clinics

Shipping Vaccine to State Health Departments or Vaccine Manufacturers

Shipping Vaccine with a Short Expiration Date or Other Usable Vaccine

Shipping Unusable Vaccine

Vaccine Preparation and Disposal

Preparation for Vaccine Administration

Reconstitution

Definitions

Diluents

Instructions for Reconstitution

Expiration of Reconstituted Vaccine

Dating Vaccine

Use of Multidose Vials Versus Single-Dose Vials

Prefilling Syringes

Recommendation

Problems Associated with Prefilling Syringes

Influenza Clinics and Prefilling Syringes

Manufacturer-Supplied Prefilled Glass Syringes

Disposal of Vaccine and Diluent

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention