

OUT OF RANGE TEMPERATURES?

Cold Chain Troubleshooting Checklist

Early troubleshooting measures will decrease the amount of vaccine wastage due to a cold chain excursion

Maintain vaccine fridge temperatures between +2.0°C and +8.0°C

Checking the Fridge:

- ✓ Ensure the fridge is plugged in
- ✓ Ensure the fridge door remains shut and sealed properly
- ✓ Ensure that the freezer has no more than 1cm of ice build-up
- ✓ Check that the fridge thermostat is properly set
- ✓ Clear items that block air circulation inside and outside of the fridge

Checking the Thermometer:

- ✓ Change the battery (current / minimum / maximum temperatures **MUST** be recorded first)
- ✓ Ensure thermometer is set to the “OUT” position
- ✓ Ensure the thermometer display is reading “MIN” and “MAX” (not “LO” and “HI” alarm limits)
- ✓ Ensure the thermometer display is located outside of the fridge
- ✓ Ensure the thermometer probe is located on the centre of the middle shelf of the fridge in an empty vaccine box
- ✓ Clear the minimum and maximum thermometer readings **after** they are documented

How to Report a Cold Chain Excursion:

- ✓ **Call Public Health** to promptly report all temperatures outside the +2.0°C to +8.0°C range; including all fridge and / or thermometer malfunctions
- ✓ If advised by Public Health, complete and fax the Vaccine Inventory and Return Form (VIRF) with the current 4 week temperature log to 905-688-4667
- ✓ Move vaccine (if necessary) and store in a fridge / cooler that is monitored and maintained between +2.0°C and +8.0°C using a digital transport min / max thermometer
 - » Do not transport COVID-19 vaccine. Leave the vaccine in the fridge and continue to record temperatures (current / minimum / maximum).
 - » Complete a temperature log sheet and refer to the Cold Chain Procedures During a Power Failure poster for instructions on how to transport vaccine
 - » When temporarily storing vaccine in a cooler, ensure temperatures (current / minimum / maximum) are documented and cleared hourly, and with every troubleshooting measure. Rotate ice packs as needed, ensuring that ice packs are not directly touching the vaccine.
- ✓ Continue to monitor vaccine by keeping a record of all temperatures (current / minimum / maximum), with times included

Public Health **MUST** be contacted to determine vaccine stability even if the problem has been corrected. Do **NOT** use the vaccine or assume wastage of the vaccine without first speaking to Public Health.

For more information, please contact:

Niagara Region Public Health, Vaccine Preventable Disease program 905-688-8248 or 1-888-505-6074 ext. 7396
Monday to Friday 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. (excluding statutory holidays) niagararegion.ca/health/professionals/vaccine