

### **WRHA Population and Public Health Adverse Storage Conditions Response Plan**

Procedures in the event of a vaccine refrigerator failure or an anticipated power failure should be posted on or near all biologics refrigerators.

#### **A. During Weekdays (Monday – Friday 08:30-16:30 hrs):**

- If a short power outage is anticipated (less than 1 hour), the refrigerator should not be opened but monitor temperature closely.

Transfer of vaccine should occur:

- If a power failure or anticipated power failure occurs for more than three hours,  
or
- If the refrigerator or freezer door has accidentally been left open,  
or
- If it is believed that the vaccines have been exposed to temperatures outside the parameter of +2° to +8° for any reason for an unknown period of time then:

1. Prepare the affected vaccine to be transported to a functional refrigerator. Refer to [Storage and Handling of Vaccines – Clinical Practice Guideline](#)
2. The affected vaccine, once transferred to a functional refrigerator, should be placed in a box or brown paper bag marked “DO NOT USE.” Clearly mark on the product (e.g., with a sticker) the date of the cold chain failure and the number of hours exposed. Two or more exposures may require special consideration by the manufacturer if the product can still be used.  
  
**\*Note:** This is excluding vaccine that has *not* incurred a cold chain failure, but necessitates transfer due to an anticipated power failure.
3. The staff member or the designate will contact the Communicable Disease Coordinator regarding the handling of the affected vaccines.
4. In consultation with the Communicable Disease Coordinator and the Team Manager a decision will be made regarding the stability of the vaccine fridge, its need for service, repair or replacement.  
**Refer to \*Note above if applicable.**
5. Documentation:  
**Refer to \*Note above if applicable.**
  - The PHN or Team Manager will complete the **Manitoba Health Adverse Storage Condition (ASC) Form and Procedure** [Manitoba Health Adverse Storage Condition \(ASC\) Form and Procedure](#)
  - The Public Health Clerk will complete the documentation in PHIMS as per Adverse Storage Conditions QRC [ASC-QRC \(phimsmb.ca\)](#)
  - Submit a copy of the report to the Communicable Disease Coordinator. The Communicable Disease Unit staff will:
    - provide guidance and support for proper vaccine storage to the field staff;
    - make recommendations with regards to storing and handling of biologics;
    - keep track of the losses & monitor dysfunctional refrigerators in the Public Health offices.
    - provide recommendations regarding the vaccine in PHIMS
    - advise Manitoba Health re: the adverse storage conditions event

## **B. During evenings, weekends or holidays:**

The Team Manager on call will follow the procedure for vaccine rescue in the event of a fridge failure as outlined in the On-Call Team Manager's binder. On-call Managers will complete the after hours on-call log sheet ([Appendix D-3](#)) to record a cold chain failure.

### Documentation:

On-call Team Manager will complete log sheet and will fax copies to:

- Communicable Disease Control office at 204-940-2690
- Manager of Administration at affected site
- Team Manager at affected site.

Being called after hours about these fridges will be a rare occurrence and would only occur due to a mechanical or electrical failure (power outage to the building). You will only be paged about the vaccine fridges between 4:30 p.m. and 8:30 a.m. Monday to Friday and 24 hours /day on holidays and weekends.