

## Cold Chain Resources and Information

### Useful Resources

Cold Chain Training is to be completed yearly. Find out more in the Health Education and Training Institute's [Vaccine Storage and Cold Chain Management module](#).

We recommend printing the [NSW Health Safe Vaccine Storage Checklist](#) for your practice.

### Managing a cold chain breach

A cold chain breach occurs when vaccine storage temperatures have been outside of the recommended range of +2°C to +8°C during storage or transport. Excursions of >8°C to up to 12°C for no longer than 15 minutes may occur whilst restocking the refrigerator and are acceptable.

Immunisation providers must report all cold chain breaches to their local public health unit.

1. Isolate vaccines and place a **'DO NOT USE'** sign on the fridge.
2. Continue to store vaccines between +2°C to +8°C. The vaccines may need to be transferred to an alternate purpose built vaccine refrigerator or cooler if available, see below.
3. **Do not discard** any vaccines.
4. Download and review the data logging report to assess the duration of the breach and temperature the refrigerator reached.
5. Complete the [Cold Chain Breach and Vaccine Wastage Reporting Form](#) and contact your local public health unit as soon as possible during business hours to report the breach. If the breach occurs after hours, keep vaccines isolated until the next business day.
6. If transferring vaccines to a vaccine cooler (e.g. Esky), record temperatures on the [Vaccine Cooler Temperature Chart](#).
7. Refer to the [NSW Cold Chain Breach Protocol](#).

### Contact details for our local Public Health Unit

Parramatta Public Health Unit (Western Sydney Local Health District)  
Phone: 9840 3603  
Fax: 9840 3608 / 9840 3591 (secure line)

After hours  
Phone: 9845 5555  
Westmead Hospital - ask for the Public Health Officer on call

Information sourced from [NSW Health](#), January 2021.