

# Vaccine Storage During Power Outages

## GENERAL INFORMATION

- Vaccines and other refrigerated medical supplies need to be maintained within a specific temperature range.
- Vaccines must be either frozen at 5°F (-15°C) or refrigerated at 35° – 46°F (2° – 8°C). Information for each specific vaccine is located on the package insert.
- In general if your frozen vaccine has been stored above 5°F (-15°C) or your refrigerated vaccine has been frozen or has warmed up to room temperature for more than a day you need to contact the manufacture for further information.

## BACKUP STORAGE

If your vaccines have been stored at the correct temperature but you are concerned about the power situation in your area contact your local hospital or other source that has a backup generator.

## TRANSPORTATION OF VACCINE

- Refrigerated vaccines must be transported in an insulated cooler with a barrier separating the vaccines from the ice/cold packs.
- Frozen vaccine (varicella, MMRV and ZOSTAVAX) **must** be transported with dry ice.

## WHAT TO DO IF A POWER FAILURE OCCURS, THE REFRIGERATOR DOOR WAS LEFT OPEN, THE REFRIGERATOR PLUG WAS PULLED, OR ANY OTHER SITUATION THAT WOULD CAUSE IMPROPER STORAGE CONDITIONS.

- Close the door and/or plug in the refrigerator/freezer.
- Record the current temperature of the refrigerator/freezer.
- Store the vaccines at appropriate temperatures. Make sure that the refrigerator/freezer is working properly or move the vaccines to a unit that is. Do not automatically throw out the affected vaccine. Mark the vaccine so that the potentially compromised vaccines can be easily identified.
- Collect essential data and contact the vaccine manufacture or OSDH if you are a vaccine for Children provider.
  - Current temperature of refrigerator: \_\_\_\_\_ Max/min temperature reached: \_\_\_\_\_
  - Current temperature of freezer: \_\_\_\_\_ Max/min temperature reached: \_\_\_\_\_
  - Amount of time temperature was outside normal range: \_\_\_\_\_ refrigerator freezer: \_\_\_\_\_

## CONSULTATION:

- Vaccine manufactures: see page 2
- Oklahoma State Department of Health for general vaccine questions and all Vaccine For Children (VFC) providers: 405-271-4073