

Vaccine Emergency Management Plan

Your practice is responsible for developing and implementing a vaccine emergency management plan. Power outages and natural disasters sometimes result in vaccine being allowed to warm above recommended temperatures. Your office should develop an emergency/disaster plan that will keep your vaccine safe and stored at the recommended temperatures in the event of an extended power outage. **IMPORTANT:** If the power outage is due to a weather emergency or natural disaster, the Ohio Department of Health (ODH) will replace your VFC vaccine stock. If the VFC vaccine is spoiled/wasted due to non-weather related power outages or human error (examples: storage unit door left open or ajar, the unit being unplugged) your facility is responsible for the spoiled/wasted vaccine. You may contact your insurance company to determine whether they will subrogate the cost of the spoiled/wasted vaccine.

In the event of a power outage the following steps should be followed:

1. Determine the cause of the power outage, i.e. mechanical failure of the unit, circuit breaker, etc.
2. Determine duration of power outage.
3. Take inventory of the VFC vaccine, including lot numbers and expiration dates.
4. Document the current temperature of the failed vaccine storage unit.*
 - Refrigerator temperature - must be between 36°F and 46°F (2°C and 8°C).
 - Freezer temperature — must be +5° F (minus 15°C) **or colder**.

* **IMPORTANT:** If temperatures are not within the specified range, the vaccine should be placed back in recommended storage, but clearly separated from the undamaged supply. Contact the VFC office at (614) 752-1352. **DO NOT USE THE VACCINE** until a VFC representative at the Ohio Department of Health has been contacted for instructions on how to proceed. Depending on manufacturer specifications, there is a possibility that the vaccine is viable. If the VFC representative determines that your VFC vaccine is spoiled/wasted, return VFC vaccine (including partial vials) to the ODH Warehouse at 900 Freeway Drive, Building 8, Columbus, OH 43229. **Do not discard spoiled/wasted VFC vaccine.**

Plan for Emergency Storage of Vaccine

1. Contact your practice's designated emergency personnel.
2. Before transporting vaccine, call emergency vaccine storage site to ensure power is maintained. (Possible emergency storage sites for vaccines: local hospitals, 24-hour pharmacies, or other medical practices.)
3. Utilize insulated coolers, ice packs and dry ice (for Varicella vaccine only) to ensure cold chain procedures for transport to emergency storage facility.

Emergency Personnel Contacts

NAME	TITLE	HOME	CELLULAR	PAGER

Emergency Vaccine Storage Site

FACILITY NAME	ADDRESS	PHONE #	CONTACT PERSON

NAME OF POWER COMPANY	PHONE NUMBER OF POWER COMPANY

All staff, including the custodial and security guard when applicable, should receive a copy of this plan in writing and be required to review the plan. All staff should know the standard procedure to follow and where/how the individual vaccines are to be stored.

Note: Your VFC representative will ask for a copy of the Vaccine Emergency Management Plan during site visits.