

CONTINGENCY PLANS: EMERGENCY VACCINE STORAGE & HANDLING

VACCINE SAFETY IS PATIENT SAFETY.

Be prepared for power outages, electrical disruptions and refrigerator malfunctions.

Primary Emergency Contact Name and Afterhours Phone #:

Secondary Emergency Contact Name and Afterhours Phone #:

Holding Point Code (HPC): YOR_NW _____

York Region Public Health 1-877-464-9675 ext. 74065

I. Power Outages or Electrical Disruptions

Upon Discovery of the Power Outage

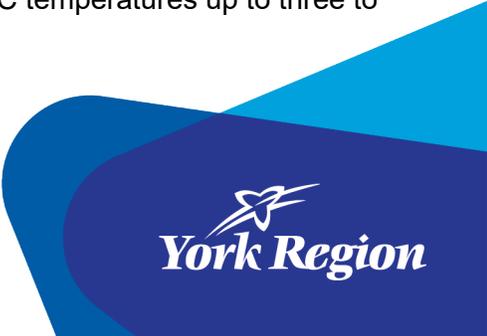
- Check the digital thermometer to ensure the refrigerator's temperature is between +2.0°C to +8.0°C.
- Document the date, time, and temperatures (current, maximum and minimum) in the [temperature logbook](#).
- If it is a scheduled or a time-limited power outage (e.g., less than four hours) and power will be restored before the refrigerator's temperature rises above +8.0°C, do the following:
 1. Keep the vaccines in the refrigerator.
 2. Keep the refrigerator door(s) closed to conserve cool air inside the unit.
 3. Continuously monitor and document refrigerator temperatures to ensure that it remains between +2.0°C to +8.0°C.
- If the refrigerator's temperature increases:
 - Place icepacks into the refrigerator to help maintain temperatures within +2.0°C to +8.0°C. NEVER place icepacks in direct contact with vaccines.
- If the refrigerator's temperature increases close to +7.0°C:
 - Start pre-conditioning transport cooler(s). Refer to [pre-conditioning instructions](#) affixed to the transport cooler.
 - It takes about 30 minutes for a cooler to stabilize between +2.0°C to +8.0°C.
- Before the refrigerator's temperature increases to +8.0°C:
 - Move vaccines to the +2.0°C to +8.0°C pre-conditioned transport cooler(s) for temporary storage.
 - Monitor and document the transport cooler's temperature every 10 to 15 minutes.
 - Properly pre-conditioned cooler(s) can maintain +2.0°C to +8.0°C temperatures up to three to four hours.

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- If vaccines will be stored for longer than three to four hours in the cooler, replace with a new set of conditioned frozen icepacks and refrigerated blankets to extend the time that the cooler can maintain +2.0°C to +8.0°C temperatures.

After The Power to The Refrigerator is Restored

- Record the date, time, and refrigerator's temperature when the power is restored, and again when the thermometer reading returns to +2.0°C to +8.0°C.
- Vaccines that were transferred to a transport cooler during the disruption may be returned to the refrigerator once the refrigerator's temperature is between +2.0°C to +8.0°C.
- Closely monitor the refrigerator's temperature as vaccines are being returned.
- If vaccines were exposed to temperatures below +2.0°C or above +8.0°C during the disruption, this is considered an Adverse Storage Condition (ASC). Refer to Section III ASC (below) for next steps.

II. Refrigerator Malfunctions

- Confirm the refrigerator door is closed and it is plugged into an electrical outlet.
- Immediately transfer vaccines to an alternate temperature-monitored refrigerator with temperatures between +2.0°C to +8.0°C at your facility.
- If an alternate refrigerator is not available, start pre-conditioning transport cooler(s). Refer to pre-conditioning instructions affixed to the transport cooler. It takes about 30 minutes for a cooler to stabilize between +2.0°C to +8.0°C.
- Move vaccines to the pre-conditioned transport cooler after confirming that its temperature is between +2.0°C to +8.0°C.
- Contact York Region Public Health immediately at 1-877-464-9675 ext. 74065, available afterhours, including weekends and statutory holidays.
- York Region Public Health staff may advise transporting the vaccines to an approved alternate site with a functioning, temperature-monitored refrigerator.
- Coolers' temperature must be monitored during vaccine transport.
- Coolers must not be transported in the trunk of a vehicle due to the extreme temperatures.
- Publicly funded vaccines must not be transported to a refrigerator at a private home residence.

III. Adverse Storage Condition (ASC): Temperatures Outside +2.0°C and +8.0°C

- Temperatures below +2.0°C and above +8.0°C are considered an ASC.
- Post signage on the refrigerator door to alert all staff of the ASC.
- Immediately report any vaccines that were exposed to the ASC by calling York Region Public Health at 1-877-464-9675 ext. 74065, available afterhours, including weekends and statutory holidays.
- Do not administer or discard the ASC-exposed vaccines** until York Region Public Health has completed an ASC investigation and viability assessment to determine vaccine potency. **Vaccine safety is patient safety.**

Visit york.ca/VaccineInventory for more vaccine storage and handling information for health care professionals.

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