## **Vaccine Storage Guide**



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### **Proper Management**

Designate one fully trained staff member to be the primary vaccine coordinator and at least one person to be backup. Ensure ongoing training for all immunization staff.

#### Manage vaccine inventory

- Review your vaccine inventory on a monthly basis and with each vaccine order to avoid over-ordering.
- If you have stock of both private and MnVFC vaccine, mark them clearly.
- Check vaccine expiration dates. Rotate your vaccine supply by placing vaccines with the earliest expiration dates in front of other vaccines and always use them first.
- Transfer vaccine you will not use before its expiration date to another MnVFC site to avoid wastage.
- Call the MnVFC program if you are unable to find another MnVFC site that
  can take your vaccine.
- Make sure you have enough space to store vaccine for the back-to-school rush and flu season.

DEPARTMENT

**OF HEALTH** 

#### Store vaccine correctly

- Place the temperature monitoring device's probe in the center of the refrigerator or freezer with the vaccines.
- Use open trays, wire baskets, or other uncovered containers to help organize vaccines.
- Clearly label each container with the vaccine type. Avoid storing look-alike, sound-alike vaccines next to each other (e.g., Tdap and DTaP, HepA and HepB).
- Keep vaccines in their original packaging.
- Store vaccines in the middle of the unit, two to three inches from the walls, ceiling, floor, door, and cold air vent. Do not store vaccine in doors or drawers.
- Keep water bottles or jugs in the refrigerator and frozen water bottles in the freezer. Mark water bottles "DO NOT DRINK."
- Routinely check that the door of each unit is shut.

#### **Monitor temperatures**

- Have a working calibrated continuous monitoring device (i.e., data logger) with a current and valid Certificate of Calibration in each unit that stores vaccine.
- Check and record current temperatures twice a day, at the start and end of each clinic day for all temperature monitoring devices including data loggers and continuous monitoring systems.
- Record the minimum and maximum temperatures at start of each clinic day. Reset device (if applicable) following manufacturer's instructions.
- Record temperatures on a temperature log and post it in a visible location or document electronically.
- Record the date, time, and name or initials of the individual checking the temperatures.
- Download temperature data and review weekly.
- Take immediate action on all outof-range temperatures, including minimum and maximum temperatures!
- Keep temperature logs for three years.

### Take action on out-of-range temperatures

Move vaccine immediately if refrigerated vaccine is less than 2°C (36°F).

- Determine the cause, if possible.
- Adjust the thermostat, if necessary.
- Notify your immunization manager or vaccine coordinator.

Monitor the temperature. If the temperature doesn't stabilize in the correct range within 30 minutes:

- Stop using the vaccine.
- Mark the vaccine "DO NOT USE."
- Move the vaccine to a storage unit that is maintaining the correct temperature.
- Collect the lot numbers, expiration dates, storage unit temperatures, the room temperature, and the time the unit was out-of-range.
- Evaluate the temperature data.
- Determine if any of this vaccine was involved in a previous mishap.
- Call the vaccine manufacturer(s).
- For MnVFC vaccine, call the MnVFC program at 651-201-5522 to report the mishap.
- Document your actions.