Anticipating a Power Outage - Urgent Vaccine Storage & Handling

When providers have cause to believe weather conditions or emergencies might affect vaccine storage, urgent procedures should be implemented in advance of the event to minimize vaccine wastage. Providers should have a Vaccine Management Emergency Recovery Plan. Agencies/practices are encouraged to arrange a back-up plan with local pharmacies or other providers with a back-up generator.

In the absence of a back-up plan Public Health Biologicals Depot could be designated as the alternate vaccine storage facility for your agency/practice.

Make advance arrangements with the Public Health Biologicals Depot to have the Depot designated as the back-up or alternate storage facility for your agency/practice. Contact us Monday – Friday 8:30am to 4:30pm.

Provide the following:

Name of practice/agency, and hours of operation.

Address and contact information, including name of primary vaccine contact person and back-up person for your practice.

Name and contact info for courier that will be used.

What you need to do:

Develop a protocol for vaccine transport to and from the Public Health Biological Depot.

Designate staff to pack vaccine to maintain cold chain temperatures (+2.0°C to +8.0°C).

Have packing materials on hand (e.g. vaccine cooler, refrigerated and frozen gel packs).

Record the inventory by lot number, amount of doses, and pack in a clear plastic bag with the inventory list visible as the packing list. Use the form: Inventory of Vaccine – Alternate Storage in Event of Power Outage.

Make advance arrangements with a courier service or staff to transport vaccine.