Management of Cold Chain Failure

A temperature reading outside +2.0°C to +8.0°C range means the vaccine products have been exposed to wrong temperatures and could be compromised. Follow this procedure:

Check if the thermometer is working correctly; the battery may need to be changed.

Record the date, time, and refrigerator temperatures as per log sheet.

Reset the thermometer.

Adjust the refrigerator setting to +2.0°C to +8.0°C.

Clearly label exposed vaccine “Do Not Use – Cold Chain Failure” and mark the date and time. Place exposed products in a working refrigerator.

Keep exposed vaccines separated from non exposed vaccines.

Complete the Vaccine Cold Chain Failure Incident Report and consult with Public Health to determine whether vaccines can still be used.

Monitor the temperature of the affected fridge twice daily for 3 days prior to returning product to the fridge, ensuring all readings have been between +2.0°C to +8.0°C. Record readings on the Vaccine Temperature Log and submit to Public Health.

After Consulting with Public Health

Clearly label biological products that have had an initial cold chain breach, but were deemed safe for use. This is important information for public health to have if the practice has a second cold chain break.

Consult with Public Health regarding the temperature readings of the fridge prior to returning any vaccine to the affected fridge.

Dispose of any products only upon direction of Public Health.