Cold Chain Management **QUICK REFERENCE**

The processes to maintain optimal temperature conditions during the transport, storage, and handling of biological products, starting at the manufacturer and ending with administration of the product to the client.

Designate one staff member and a back up to be fully trained in vaccine storage and handling protocols and in procedures for managing cold chain breaks.

All staff members should be familiar with the site's policies and procedures for vaccine storage and handling.

Daily, weekly, quarterly, and annual maintenance tasks should be performed to ensure proper functioning of equipment.

Print and post SIM **Appendix 9.1: Store Biological Products Properly**

Dedicated **vaccine storage units** must be selected carefully, used properly, and maintained appropriately to protect vaccine supplies.

Optimal temperatures for vaccines:

Refrigerated:
2°C to 8°C (36°F to 46°F)

Frozen:
-15°C to -50°C (+5°F to -58°F)

Protection from light is necessary for some products.

Continuous temperature monitoring devices must:

- have an out-of-range alarm
- display current, minimum, and maximum temperatures
- be accurate within +/- 0.5°C (+/- 1°F)

Temperatures on vaccine storage units must be checked and recorded a minimum of twice daily.

Follow steps to protect vaccines during **immunization clinics.**

Vaccines should be transported in insulated containers that have been qualified to ensure that they can maintain the vaccine temperature of 2°C to 8°C for the necessary duration.

Appropriate ice/gel packs and insulating material are required to maintain this temperature range.

Management of Cold Chain Incidents

1. Quarantine Product

Mark **"Do Not Use"** and store in appropriate conditions. Document details.

2. Determine Usability

Publicly Funded Vaccines
Complete the **Cold Chain Break** form and fax directly to the Ministry of Health at 306-787-3237. Await instructions.

Non-Publicly Funded Vaccines
Contact Manufacturer for instructions.

3. Follow Direction Provided

Refer to **SCPP Vaccine Storage, Handling and Transport Guidelines**. If the affected product is determined to be suitable for use, return to inventory and clearly label "Exposed to Cold Chain Incident".

If a cold chain incident has been identified after a vaccine has been administered and the product is deemed unviable, serological testing or revaccination may be suggested.

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