

Algorithm: Managing a Cold Chain Excursion

Identify the Cold Chain Excursion:

- Occurs when a vaccine is exposed to direct sunlight or fluorescent light **and/or** to temperatures outside the recommended range of +2°C to +8°C **and/or** appropriate temperature documentation has not occurred.



Act Immediately:

- Document current, minimum and maximum temperatures at time excursion is found.
- Quarantine exposed vaccine in a paper/plastic bag and keep in a monitored, functioning fridge or qualified insulated container.
- Label affected vaccine 'DO NOT USE'.
- If able, address the issue that caused the cold chain excursion.



Inform:

- On site vaccine controller and/or back up controller of the incident.
- Your **PCA Zone Contact** by email or fax as soon as possible by completing the [Cold Chain Excursion Reporting Form](#) providing as much detail as possible.
- All cold chain excursions and/or light excursions must be reported to Provincial Immunization Program.



Follow-Up:

- Follow instructions from your PCA Provincial Immunization Zone Contact for **viable and/or non-viable vaccine**.
- Address any operational/procedural and/or other issues that caused the cold chain excursion to prevent future excursions.

Cold Chain Excursion resources can be found at:

[Vaccine Storage and Handling | Alberta Health Services](#)