

Immunisation Policy Document

Title	Management and Storage of Vaccines
Location	www.health.sa.gov.au/pehs/immunisation-index.htm
Policy Number	2
Date Reviewed	1 January 2012
Date Due For Review	1 January 2013
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References	National Vaccine Storage Guidelines 'Strive For 5' 2005
<p>3.1 In South Australia, the Immunisation Section is responsible for ensuring that immunisation service providers receive potent vaccines. Vaccines are transported under controlled conditions between +2 and +8°Celsius</p> <p>3.1.1 Metropolitan deliveries Vaccines are transported in monitored refrigerated vans</p> <p>3.1.2 Rural deliveries Vaccines are packed, transported and delivered according to the National Vaccine Storage Guidelines 'Strive For 5', using Cold Chain Indicators and appropriately packed eskys.</p>	
<p>3.2 In South Australia, immunisation service providers are responsible for ensuring that the vaccines that are administered are potent and effective. Vaccines must be stored within a recommended temperature range of +2 and +8°Celsius.</p> <p>Upon receipt of a vaccine delivery:</p> <p>Metropolitan deliveries</p> <p>3.2.1 Promptly place them in a monitored vaccine fridge</p> <p>3.2.3 When placing in the fridge ensure:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Individual vaccines are NOT removed from their original packaging • Stock is rotated according to expiry date, so the vaccines with shortest expiry dates are used first. Report any expired stock to the Immunisation Section. <p>Rural Deliveries</p> <p>3.2.4 Check the Heat/Freeze Indicators to ensure the vaccines have not been exposed to temperatures outside +2 to +8°C during transportation</p> <p>3.2.5 Once vaccines have been checked, promptly place them in a monitored vaccine fridge</p> <p>3.2.6 When placing in the fridge check:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Individual vaccines are NOT removed from their original packaging • Stock is rotated according to expiry date, so the vaccines with shortest expiry dates are used first. Report any expired stock to the Immunisation Section. 	
<p>3.3 Equipment used to store and monitor vaccines</p>	



3.3.1 Vaccine purpose built fridge or a modified domestic fridge

Vaccines are to be stored in accordance with the National Vaccine Storage Guidelines 'Strive For 5'.

3.3.2 External minimum/maximum digital thermometer

Position the probe inside an empty vaccine box, containing the product information, labelled 'empty'.

- Vaccine purpose built fridge (as a back-up in time of power outage) – position the 'empty' vaccine box towards the back of the middle shelf in fridge
 - Modified domestic fridge – position the 'empty' vaccine box towards the back of the middle shelf, inside an enclosed plastic container containing vaccines
 - Esky (as back-up plan or transporting to outreach clinics) – position the 'empty' vaccine box amongst the vaccine stock
- Record the minimum, maximum and current temperatures twice daily on the *Vaccine fridge temperature chart*.
 - Reset the thermometer once the temperature readings have been recorded.
 - Replace batteries every 12 months.

3.3.3 ColdMark Freeze indicator

- For Vaccine Purpose Built Fridge – place 1 indicator on each shelf where vaccines are stored.
- For Modified Domestic Fridge – place 1 indicator inside each enclosed plastic container where vaccines are stored.

3.3.4 Vaccine fridge temperature chart

- Use a different chart for each fridge that stores vaccines.
- Additional charts are available from the Immunisation Section

3.4 **Daily monitoring of vaccines**

3.4.1 Check the current, minimum and maximum temperatures twice daily, before a vaccination session and at the end of the work day

3.4.2 Check the ColdMark Freeze indicator twice daily at the same time the fridge temperature is read to ensure the indicator remains intact.

3.4.3 Record the temperature and the ColdMark Freeze indicator readings on the *Vaccine fridge temperature chart*.

3.4.4 Reset the thermometer once the temperature readings have been recorded.

3.5 **What to do when vaccines have been stored outside the recommended range of +2 to +8°C:**

3.5.1 Isolate vaccines by placing a 'DO NOT USE VACCINES' sign on the fridge, communicate this information to all staff

3.5.2 Contact the Immunisation Section as soon as possible on 1300 232 272 Monday to Friday 9am to 5pm

3.5.3 Do not use any of the vaccines and do not discard any vaccines unless directed by the Immunisation Section

3.5.4 The Immunisation Section will complete a Cold Chain Breach form

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requesting specific information on all items in the fridge including vaccines, the minimum/ maximum temperature probe and cold chain indicators

3.5.5 Prepare a list of the number and type of vaccines stored on each shelf

3.5.6 Document all action taken on the reverse side of the vaccine fridge temperature chart

4.1 Back-up plan:

Having an alternate means of vaccine storage in the event of a power failure will help reduce vaccine losses and allow providers to continue to store vaccines between the recommended temperature of +2° and +8° C.

4.1.1 Alternative vaccine storage may include any of the following:

Back-up generator, monitored fridge “off site” or esky/cooler

4.1.2 A Cold chain back-up plan is available at

<http://www.health.sa.gov.au/PEHS/immunisation-index.htm>

Contact

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Last revised January 2012