

New Fridge Set Up/Moving Vaccine Fridge to a new Site

- When choosing a vaccine fridge, consider whether your facility will be storing additional medications such as allergy serum and other medications that need refrigeration. The refrigerator needs to have the capacity to hold the largest inventory of the year. (Flu Season)
- Diluents should also be kept in the fridge with the vaccines (MMR/Priorix, Varivax/Varilrix & Priorix Tetra)
- The fridge should be located in a well-ventilated area away from direct sunlight and external walls.

The Health Unit has the space to keep your vaccines for storage during your move, renovation, emergency or vacations. We will ensure it remains within the Vaccine Storage and Handling Guidelines and will provide a copy of the temperatures upon request.

- Add large “non-drinking” bottles of water to the door and the floor of the fridge.
- Attach the temperature probe to an expired vaccine bottle, place back in the vaccine box and tape probe box to the center of the fridge. Use a thermometer that records current, maximum and minimum temperatures in 0.1 degrees C increments.
- Start recording the current, maximum, minimum temperatures twice per day for 7 days. (When you come in at the beginning of the day and when you leave the office at the end of the day). Adjust the temperature setting as needed.
- After 7 consecutive working days of temperatures within 2-8 degrees C, fax the temperature log with “New Fridge Temperatures” at the top to the Health Unit at 519-977-1711.
- A nurse from the Health Unit will contact you and an appointment date for a visit will be made for an inspection.
- Continue to monitor the fridge temperatures twice per day and contact the Health Unit with any questions or concerns.

Please note that moving vaccine to a new fridge without taking the above steps may result in a cold chain incident and loss of vaccines. 7 days of temperature recordings will ensure the fridge is running at the optimal temperature before vaccines are stored there.

Reference: Vaccine Storage and Handling Guidelines 2012