

## Vaccine Storage and Handling Guidelines

### Temperature logs

- \* Recommend use of temperature log developed by Immunization Project
- \* Consistent use of either Fahrenheit or Centigrade scale
- \* Circle scale used at top of appropriate column on log
- \* Recommend assessment of temperature for all units at beginning and end of day

### Thermometers

- \* Regular thermometers are acceptable
- \* Check accuracy biannually using standardized thermometer; e.g. NIST
- \* Replace faulty NIST thermometers

### Vaccines and medications only

- \* Designated fridge/freezer is for vaccines and medications only
- \* If no alternative is available, Pedialyte popsicles may be stored in sealed plastic container; e.g. Tupperware, Ziploc
- \* Above also applies to Pedialyte, Ensure etc. in refrigerator
- \* Regular popsicles should not be kept in freezer with vaccines

### Vaccine dispensers, if used

- \* Fill dispenser from back
- \* Fill dispenser with vials of same lot number and expiration date

### Tuberculin skin test vials (PPD)

- \* Write date opened on side of vial
- \* Discard after 30 days

### Multi-dose vials

- \* Follow manufacturer's expiration date printed on vial
- \* Use sterile technique when accessing vial
- \* If vaccine is cloudy or has particulate matter, discard

### Pre-drawing of vaccines

- \* Not recommended under any circumstances

### Power outage

- \* For VFC stock call your VFC provider  
City of Houston, 713/558-3535, Monday-Friday, 8am-5pm  
Harris County, 713/439-6093, Monday-Friday, 8am-5pm  
Texas Department of Health, 713/767-3424
- \* For private stock, call the vaccine manufacturer  
Merck, 215/661-5000  
Aventis Pasteur (Pasteur Merieux Connaught), 570/839-7187  
SmithKline Beecham, 215/751-4000  
Wyeth Lederle, 215/688-4400
- \* Implement safety check to assess if power outage has occurred; e.g. "penny in a cup"

### References

Utility Outage, SAF 707

Quality Assurance of Medications, SAF 310

### Immunization Project Contact Information

832/824-2064 (phone)

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