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Date: December 19, 2008

**TO:** Vaccine Manager and Office Manager

**FROM:** Lena Boulanger  
Vaccine Accountability Coordinator

Marcella Bobinsky  
Program Manager

**SUBJECT:** Ice Storm Power Outage Guidelines

New Hampshire Immunization Program is committed to work with you to insure the efficacy of all childhood vaccines in your possession. Vaccine that may have been compromised since the ice storm on December 12 will be a loss to the vaccine program. However, a greater loss will take place if children are vaccinated with compromised vaccines. Please call us with questions. We also urge you to contact the manufacturers for additional information (phone #'s included). Have the following information in hand before calling:

- Temperature logs
- Times
- Dates
- Lot #'s
- How vaccines were stored if transported, etc.

**PLEASE FORWARD THE FOLLOWING TO  
ALL APPROPRIATE PERSONNEL AS SOON AS POSSIBLE**

You will receive duplications of this message this week  
as NHIP works diligently to reach 30 more practices as their power comes back on.

**NOTICE:**

You have received this message based upon the information contained within the Swift Information System (SIS) notification database. If you have a different or additional e-mail or fax address that you would like us to use please notify us as soon as possible by e-mail at [IMMUNIZATION@DHHS.STATE.NH.US](mailto:IMMUNIZATION@DHHS.STATE.NH.US), for more information go to <http://www.dhhs.state.nh.us/DHHS/IMMUNIZATION/>

## POWER OUTAGE GUIDELINES

### Ongoing power outage:

- Vaccines have been compromised if kept out of the recommended temperature range since last Friday's ice storm. Call the New Hampshire Immunization Program at 603-271-4482 for further instructions.
- If you have transferred your vaccine to an alternative site with a reliable power source, leave it there until your power is restored. NHIP advises that you wait at least 24 hours after your power has been restored to move your vaccine.
- Before placing the vaccine back into your storage units, record the temperature in the unit as soon as possible after power has been restored. Continue to monitor the temperatures until they reach the normal 2 - 8 degrees Celsius range in the refrigerator, or -15 degrees C or colder in the freezer.
- When transporting the vaccine, follow proper cold chain procedures for storage and handling and monitor the temperature the vaccine is exposed to during transport. If necessary, record the length of time the vaccine was stored outside the manufacturer recommended temperature of 2 – 8 degrees C.
- **Do not lay frozen ice packs directly on refrigerated vaccines use a buffer such as bubble wrap, crumpled paper or packing peanuts.**

### Transporting varicella-containing vaccines

- Varicella-containing vaccines should be transported on dry ice in a frozen state to maintain potency. If these vaccines were transported off-site and dry ice was not available, contact Merck directly at 1-800-982-7482 for instructions as to its viability. When prompted press 0, press 0 again then press 2 to be directed to a customer service representative.
- If Merck has determined that your varicella vaccine has been compromised complete the Non-viable Vaccine Return Form, **return the vaccine to McKesson** and call the NH Immunization Program at 603-271-4482 for reordering instructions.

The return form can also be found on-line at: <http://www.dhhs.state.nh.us/DHHS/IMMUNIZATION/>

In order for all vaccine providers to continue to immunize patients through the end of the year, NHIP will have a small amount of vaccine available for distribution. Contact Lena Boulanger directly at 271-4634.

**NH IMMUNIZATION PROGRAM  
NON-VIABLE VACCINE RETURN FORM**

PROVIDER: \_\_\_\_\_  
 CONTACT: \_\_\_\_\_  
 ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

PIN# \_\_\_\_\_  
 PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_  
 FAX: \_\_\_\_\_  
 DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

All non-viable vaccine (expired/spoiled) must be returned to the McKesson facility in Memphis\*. You may return wasted vaccine in the McKesson shipping containers.  
 (\*Exception: DT Pediatric and HBIG (provided to hospital pharmacies). These should be returned to The NH Immunization Program)

**DIRECTIONS**

- This form must be filled out in its entirety when returning vaccine.
- Be sure to make a copy for your records.
- Fax this form to NHIP @ 603-271-4932 prior to returning box to McKesson.
- Place original blue form in box being returned to McKesson.

**Please check off the reason for the return:**

- \_\_\_\_\_ SPOILAGE- NO NEGLIGENCE (Natural Disaster/Power Outage)
- \_\_\_\_\_ SPOILAGE-NEGLIGENCE (Left out of refrigeration/prepared too many doses etc.)
- \_\_\_\_\_ EXPIRATION
- \_\_\_\_\_ DAMAGE DURING TRANSIT
- \_\_\_\_\_ FAILURE TO STORE PROPERLY UPON RECEIPT
- \_\_\_\_\_ MECHANICAL FAILURE
- \_\_\_\_\_ OUT OF RANGE TEMPERATURES
- \_\_\_\_\_ OTHER

Please give a brief explanation for return;

\_\_\_\_\_

Vaccine	NDC #	Doses	Lot #	MFG	EXP

**IT IS IMPERATIVE THAT THIS FORM BE FAXED TO 603-271-4932- before returning to McKesson**