



STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
DIVISION OF PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES

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NEW HAMPSHIRE IMMUNIZATION PROGRAM
FAX Cover Sheet

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TO: Vaccine Manager

MESSAGE FROM: LENA BOULANGER

OFFICE: Department of Health and Human Services
Office of Community and Public Health
IMMUNIZATION PROGRAM

TELEPHONE: (603) 271-4463 OR
800-852-3345, EXT. 4463,
Vaccine Shipping Dept.

FAX NUMBER: (603) 271-4932

COMMENTS:

CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION: The information in this FAX is intended for the addressee only and contains confidential information. If you receive this FAX by mistake, please contact the Immunization Program immediately at (603) 271-4482 for instructions on its disposal.

TDD Access: Relay NH 1-800-735-2964
(Agency Telephone Number) 603-271-4482)
<http://www.dhhs.state.nh.us/DHHS/IMMUNIZATION/IMMUNIZATION@DHHS.STATE.NH.US>

POWER OUTAGE ARE YOU PREPARED?

Should a power outage occur due to the ice storm the following should provide some guidance regarding vaccine storage.

Most refrigerated vaccines are relatively stable at elevated temperatures up to 25 degrees C (77 degrees F) for limited periods of time. The vaccines of most concern are MMR and Varivax, which are sensitive to elevated temperatures. MMR will retain potency at temperatures up to 25 degrees C if the exposure doesn't exceed 72 hours.

With regard to Varivax, we will consult with Merck to determine the best course of action. Please keep freezers closed and do not use Varivax vaccine after power is restored.

If the power outage is on-going:

1. Keep all refrigerators and freezers closed. This will help to conserve the cold mass of the vaccines.
2. Continue to monitor temperatures if possible. Do not open units to check temperatures during the power outage. Instead, record the temperature as soon as possible after the power is restored, and the duration of the outage. This will provide data on the maximum temperature and maximum duration of exposures to elevated temperatures.
3. If alternative storage with reliable power sources is available (i.e. hospital with generator power), transfer to that facility can be considered.

If transporting vaccine, measure the temperature of the refrigerator(s) and freezer(s) when the vaccines are removed. If possible transport the vaccine following proper cold chain procedures for storage and handling or try to record the temperature the vaccine is exposed to during transport.

Do not lay frozen ice packs directly on refrigerated vaccines.

Note: Varicella can only be transported one way without dry ice.

When power has been restored:

1. 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 less in the freezer. Be sure to record the duration of increased temperature exposure and the maximum temperature observed.
2. Call the New Hampshire Immunization Program at 603-271-4463 for further instructions.