



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

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**DATE:** June 13, 2008

**TO:** Vaccine Manager  
Office Manager

**FROM:** Marcella Bobinsky, MPH  
Program Manager  
NH Immunization Program

**RE:** Vaccine Storage in Extreme Weather

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

**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 [LJOHNSON@DHHS.STATE.NH.US](mailto:LJOHNSON@DHHS.STATE.NH.US)

## **Vaccine Storage in Extreme Weather**

Due to the increase in humidity and temperature, please pay extra attention to the refrigerators and freezers that are storing thousands of dollars in vaccines. We have just experienced a costly incident that highlights the sensitive nature of vaccine storage units during periods of extreme temperatures.

- **Call the NHIP within 24 hours** if unit temperature is out of range.  
Do not wait until it is time to re-order vaccine.
- Have you checked your thermometer – is it accurate?
- Do you check the temperature in your units twice a day?
- Does the door close completely – every time it is opened?  
Strap the door closed by using Velcro.
- Have you checked the seals on your refrigerator/freezer doors?  
It is less expensive to replace the seals than to replace the vaccine.
- Is your temperature control knob taped in place – or can a box bump it?
- Is there space inside the refrigerator/freezer unit to allow for proper circulation?
- Is the area around the outside of the unit clear of clutter – allowing for circulation?
- **Does everyone in the office understand the importance of the vaccine cold chain?**