Managing Temperature Fluctuations in Community Clinic

Information for Clinical Leads

Autumn/Winter Programme

The autumn/winter programme will be a co-administered programme in line with JCVI advice. There will be sufficient fridges installed in each community clinic to allow storage of sufficient stock for one day of inactivated influenza vaccine administration for up to 800 patients. These vaccines are different from Covid-19 vaccines and have different presentation, storage and administration requirements.

From a cold chain perspective, storage requirements for Covid-19 vaccine and seasonal flu are similar. The difference will be that the Covid-19 vaccines continue to be multi dose vials be while inactivated influenza vaccines will arrive in boxes of 10 pre-filled single dose syringes.

When the clinic is operational, temperature monitoring should be carried out at the start and end of each day and in addition, when the fridge is opened and 15 minute afterwards. All staff should know how to record, report and undertake any necessary remedial action for any temperature variation outside 2-8oC.

Temperature logs should be kept for each fridge. There is no requirement to have separate records for different vaccines within each fridge.

The temperature log should be reviewed at the end of each vaccination session to identify any temperature breaches not already reported. Static numbers of temperatures may indicate a training requirement for the staff involved.

Staff should be trained not to open the fridge if the actual temperature is showing towards the higher end of the 2- 8oC range.

Fridges may go through a narrow temperature cycle on observation e.g. the temperature will be seen to rise from 4oC to 6oC then back again in within a four or five minute cycle. This will vary depending on the fridge. It is best to wait until the fridge is at or nearly at the lowest temperature in its cycle.

If it's opened at the 'high' end of its temperature cycle the fridge is more likely to exceed 8oC.

This means that usually, an actual temperature of between 5oC and 6oC is acceptable to open the fridge for vaccines.

It is important to balance the need for maintaining the temperature in the 2- 8oC range and preventing the build of patients in a clinic waiting for vaccine.

It is more likely to be a temperature increase than a drop below 2oC.

In the event of a transient increase (i.e. within 20mins), then:

* Annotate temperature monitoring with reason for fluctuation if known e.g. door opened too long.
* Vaccine remains suitable for use.

In the event where the fluctuation is beyond 20mins then:

* Use the vaccine within 6 hours of temperature fluctuation first being observed.
* Quarantine remaining vaccine in a satisfactory functioning fridge clearly labelled to avoid use until risk assessment undertaken.
* Contact PDC for replacement vaccine to satisfy immediate needs (see below).
* Annotate temperature monitoring chart.
* Contact HSCP pharmacy technician or PPH for advice on risk assessment at earliest opportunity (in hours).
* Complete vaccine incident reporting form for any quarantined vaccine.

**Fridge Alarms and other alerts**

Attached to this document is a copy of the Labcold instructions for the fridges used in the clinics. This provides some help and guidance in the event of an error or alarm notification.



In the event of the fridge alarm being triggered, then press icon on front of fridge with speaker to mute. Ensure temperatures have recovered, record temperatures and reset. As long as all three temperatures within 2-8oC, the alarm will not sound as activated again.

All fridges will go through self-defrost cycles.  It is not unusual for staff to see a DEF icon. Advice in this situation is to leave it for 5 minutes until defrost cycle ends then record the minimum, maximum and actual readings.

It is advisable for clinics to hold spare batteries (4 x AA) and to replace these annually.

**Contact for Pharmacy Distribution Centre Vaccine Holding (Unit C)**

In the event of vaccines requiring quarantine and replacement stock required to complete the clinic, please contact Monday to Friday (7am-4pm) and weekends (7am – 12 noon) vaccine department on 0141 201 3488. Please note that weekend hours are variable depending on the vaccines currently in use.

In the event that PDC is closed, and replacement stock is required, please contact on call Consultant in Public Health.