COVID-19 Temperature Excursion Protocol

January 2021

Temperature excursions or inappropriate storage conditions for any vaccine require immediate action. Any temperature reading outside the recommended ranges is a temperature excursion. Following the steps below is vital for ensuring only viable vaccine is administered.

Monitor

- Storage unit temperatures must be monitored regularly and checked and recorded at the beginning of each workday to determine if any excursions happened since the last temperature check. Use a digital data logger (DDL) for accurate temperature monitoring.
- When running vaccine clinics, continuously monitor coolers and keep an hourly temperature log.
- CDC has tracking resources on the Product Information pages for Pfizer-BioNTech and Moderna vaccines.

Notify

- When any out of range temperatures are detected, immediately notify all appropriate people within your organization. Do not continue normally without notification.

Document

- Label products as “Do Not Use” until the Health Department Immunization Program obtains manufacturer information.

Contact

- Reach out to the Health Department Immunization Program at ahs.vdhimmunizationprogram@vermont.gov, or 1-802-863-7638 for next steps and guidance.

Correct

- While waiting for guidance, correct only obvious issues (opened door, left outside unit, etc.) to get the vaccine into the acceptable range.

DO NOT:

- Assume the vaccine is not viable
- Adjust temperature by adding ice packs or opening the door
- Move the vaccine to another unmonitored unit

**Pfizer-BioNTech**

**Permanent storage storage**

- Between -80°C and -60°C

**Before reconstitution**

- In the refrigerator
  - Between 2°C and 8°C for 120 hours
- At room temperature
  - 8°C to 25°C
- Must mix within 2 hours

**After reconstitution**

- Between 2°C and 25°C for 6 hours

**Moderna**

**Permanent storage storage**

- Between -25°C and -15°C

**Before punctured**

- In the refrigerator
  - Between 2°C and 8°C for 30 days
- At room temperature
  - Between 8°C and 25°C for 12 hours

**After punctured**

- Between 2°C and 25°C for 6 hours