

# VACCINE COLD CHAIN BREACH CHECKLIST

SA Health Immunisation Section — 1300 232 272

A cold chain breach is when vaccine storage temperatures have been outside the recommended range of +2°C and +8°C.

Cold chain breaches will be evident when noting the min/max thermometer temperatures or checking the Freeze Watch Monitor cards (currently blue) which release the blue dye in the bulb when a freeze event has occurred i.e. 0°C or below.

This does not include a < 15 minute temperature climb of up to +12°C during restocking.

## ACTION PLAN CHECKLIST

Isolate the vaccines e.g. 'Do Not Use' sign on fridge	
Notify all relevant staff	
Commence the 'Cold Chain Breach Incident Checklist' for SA Health notification (another staff member can assist e.g. number and type of vaccines on each shelf)	
Keep vaccines in monitored +2°C & +8°C – however possible i.e. same fridge if current temperature normal or if vaccines are moved	
Do not discard vaccines	
Contact SA Health Immunisation Section on 1300 232 272 for advice on the particular incident	
For privately purchased vaccines—Notify the manufacturer	
Does the fridge need servicing or replacing?	
Was the fridge door left open?	
Was there overcrowding of the vaccines?	
Document incident, date and outcome on the back of the Vaccine Fridge Temperature Chart	

References:

Kiss Guide to Vaccine Management (QLD Govt): <http://vaccinemanagement.gpqld.com.au/>  
National Vaccine Storage Guidelines, *Strive for 5*. Australian Government

The following details may be asked when notifying SA Health Immunisation Section of a cold chain breach.

## INCIDENT CHECKLIST

Details to have ready before a cold chain breach incident	
Provider ID Number	
Vaccine fridge type e.g. purpose-built or domestic?	
If external min/max thermometer used what date was the battery last changed?	
Details following the cold chain breach incident	
Date of breach	
What were the minimum/maximum temperature readings?	
What was the reading when the breach was noticed?	
Do you know how long the breach lasted?	
When was the thermometer last reset?	
When was the accuracy of the thermometer last checked? (p.22 of Guidelines)	
Are Cold Chain (freeze) Monitors stored with the vaccines?	
If CCM stored with the vaccines, is the dye still encased?	
Where is the temperature probe situated? (domestic)	
Where are your vaccines stored in the fridge? (domestic)	
What type and number of vaccines are you currently stocking?	
What is the expiry date of your vaccines?	
Are the vaccines in their packaging?	
Have vaccines been pushed up against a cooling plate or a cold air outlet?	
Are vaccines in enclosed plastic containers (domestic)	
Are there water bottles inside doors and unused shelves (domestic)	
What do you think was the cause of the cold chain breach?	
Has the cause been rectified?	
Has anyone been vaccinated with the potentially affected vaccines?	