

VACCINE MANAGEMENT DURING A POWER FAILURE ACTION CHECKLIST

It is recommended that another suitable location for vaccine storage be prearranged in case of emergency e.g. local pharmacy or hospital with generator backup and large fridge.

Depending on the number of vaccines stocked, have at least one functional min/max battery operated fridge thermometer on hand for ongoing monitoring of vaccine storage temperature.

Electricity supplier & contact:
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Alternative storage location & contact:
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Find out cause of power outage	
If external contact electricity supplier to ascertain, if possible, how long the power will be interrupted	
Remove ice/gel packs from freezer to prepare for cooler/s. Need to be 'sweating'	
If possible lengthy blackout, contact alternative location for vaccine storage	
Cool the bottom of the esky/cooler with ice/gel packs	

PURPOSE-BUILT VACCINE FRIDGE – may only have 30 minutes	DOMESTIC FRIDGE – may have 4 hours
Leave vaccines in fridge	Leave vaccines in fridge
Place blanket/thick cardboard over glass door	Continue to monitor fridge
Place sign on door 'Keep shut' & monitor i.e. battery thermometer	Place sign on door 'Keep shut'

Packing Cooler or Esky	
Line bottom of cooler with bubble wrap or other insulating material	
Group vaccines in zip lock bags to assist with packing & unpacking	
Place min/max thermometer and a freeze indicator in the centre of container with thermometer probe in empty vaccine box	
Surround vaccines with bubble wrap – not too tightly but to avoid direct contact with ice packs and place in container	
Place ice/gel packs on top (line sides in large container) and seal the lid of the cooler	
Monitor and record at least hourly	

Reference: Kiss Guide to Vaccine Management (QLD Govt): <http://vaccinemanagement.gpql.com.au>