

Infectious Diseases Vaccine Storage And Handling Protocol

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Purpose

- Vaccine wastage due to spoilage or expiry is a concern for all immunization programs.
- This Protocol has been developed to achieve greater standardization in the management of provincial vaccine inventories to:
 - ensure the proper storage and handling of vaccines;
 - strengthen quality assurance activities; and
 - provide education strategies in an effort to minimize and reduce provincially funded vaccine wastage and promote vaccine safety and efficacy.
- This Protocol replaces the *Vaccine Preventable Diseases (VPD) — Vaccine Distribution, Storage and Handling Protocol, January 1998*.

Requirements Listed in Standard

Standard:

- Vaccine Preventable Diseases

Requirements:

- Requirement #5: The board of health shall provide a comprehensive information and education strategy to promote optimal vaccine management, including storage and handling practices, among health care providers in accordance with the *Vaccine Storage and Handling Protocol, 2008* (or as current). This shall include:
 - One-on-one training at the time of cold chain inspection;
 - Distributing information to new health care providers who handle vaccines; and
 - Providing ongoing support to existing health care providers who handle vaccines.

Requirements Listed in Standard

- Requirement #10: The board of health shall ensure the storage and distribution of provincially funded vaccines including to health care providers practicing within the health unit in accordance with the *Vaccine Storage and Handling Protocol, 2008* (or as current).
- Requirement #11: The board of health shall promote vaccine inventory management in all premises where provincially funded vaccines are stored in accordance with the *Vaccine Storage and Handling Protocol, 2008* (or as current).

Protocol Highlights

1. Inventory management
2. Vaccine order process
3. Vaccine return process
4. Vaccine handling and use: Storage by the board of health (BOH)
5. Vaccine storage and handling equipment:
 - a. Physical requirements
 - b. Routine maintenance
 - c. Temperature control

Protocol Highlights

6. Vaccine transport:
 - a. Immunization clinics
 - b. Health care providers
 - c. Air and courier
7. Information and education strategies
8. Cold chain inspections:
 - a. Cold chain incident inspection
 - b. Routine inspections
9. Cold chain incidents: Within BOH and at Health Care Provider (HCP) premises
10. Contingency planning within the BOH

Cross References

- None

Supporting Documentation

Vaccine Storage and Handling (VSH) Guidelines, 2006

Vaccine Stability Chart, 2008

Temperature Log Book

Forms:

- Vaccine order forms.
- Vaccine return forms.
- Vaccine cold chain maintenance inspection report form.
- Cold chain incident exposure/wastage report form.

Vaccine Storage and Handling Best Practice document

- To be finalized and released in 2009.

Highlights/Discussion

New – VSH Protocol (2008)

1. New BOH requirements:
 - Calibration of temperature recording and monitoring devices once annually.
 - Vaccine inventory must be stored in purpose-built refrigerators at the BOH by 2011.
 - Development of a vaccine storage contingency plan within the BOH.
 - Enhanced cold chain inspection requirements.
 - Enhanced vaccine transport requirements.
2. Removal of the following sections from the 1998 Protocol:
 - Job descriptions for vaccine preventable diseases staff.
 - Administration of vaccine.
 - Appendices (i.e. forms, stability chart, etc.).
3. Protocol will be supported by the VSH best practice document (early 2009).
4. Addition of a glossary of terms.

Highlights/Discussion

The Ministry developed a draft Vaccine Storage and Handling Best Practices document with the assistance of several health units in 2006. The Best Practices document requires updating to reflect the requirements of the Vaccine Storage and Handling Protocol, 2008.

Question:

- What are the key elements that you would like addressed in the following chapters?

Highlights/Discussion

Best practices document chapters:

1. Inventory management
2. Vaccine order and return process
3. Vaccine stability: heat and cold exposures
4. Vaccine handling and use: Storage by the board of health (BOH)
5. Vaccine storage and handling equipment:
 - Physical requirements
 - Routine maintenance
 - Temperature control
6. Vaccine transport:
 - Immunization clinics
 - Health care providers
 - Air and courier
7. Information and education strategies
8. Cold chain inspections:
 - Cold chain incident inspections
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Questions & Answers

- **Q: Who will pay for all the equipment upgrades associated with the Protocol?**

A: The Ministry of Health and Long-Term care will pay for most of the upgrades (e.g. fridges, annual calibration). However, if your health unit does not have a temperature monitoring and recording device (i.e. data logger) in your vaccine refrigerator, the health unit is responsible for purchasing one.

- **Any additional questions?**

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