



# IMPORTANT MESSAGE

California Department of Public Health  
Immunization Branch  
Vaccines for Children (VFC) Program  
850 Marina Bay Parkway  
Richmond, CA 94804

Toll Free Phone:  
877-2GET-VFC (877-243-8832)

Toll Free Fax:  
877-FAXX-VFC (877-329-9832)

## Response to Power Outages

June 27, 2013

Dear VFC Provider,

As temperatures increase during summer months, please ensure your clinic is prepared in case of a sudden loss of power. Ensure your refrigerator unit has water bottles distributed throughout (bottom and few on door) and the freezer unit has extra frozen ice-packs. Back-up generators are recommended for clinics with commercial/pharmacy/lab grade units with forced fan air circulation.

Be sure you have an emergency plan that describes steps to take in case of a power failure:

- Do not open freezers and refrigerators until power is restored. This will help to conserve the cold mass of the vaccines.
- Do not adjust the thermostat during a power outage.
- Monitor temperatures if unit's thermometer has an external temperature display. Do not open units to check temperatures during the power outage.
- As soon as the power is restored, record refrigerator and freezer temperatures including:
  1. Current, MIN and MAX temperatures
  2. Duration of the outage
  3. Room temperature
- Continue to monitor the temperatures until they reach the normal range in the refrigerator, and freezer.

If the power outage is on-going (power not restored by the end of the business day):

- Transfer vaccines to an alternative storage facility with reliable power sources (i.e., hospital with generator power). **IMPORTANT:** vaccines stored in a laboratory/pharmacy grade unit, especially those with a forced-air circulation or with glass doors get warmer faster and may need to be transported to an alternate location sooner.
- Record the temperature of the refrigerator(s) and freezer(s) when the vaccines are removed.
- Transport the vaccine following proper procedures for storage and handling and the record the temperature the vaccine is exposed to during transport. <http://eziz.org/assets/docs/IMM-983.pdf>. Never place refrigerated vaccines directly on ice without any insulation material.

**Do not administer or discard any potentially exposed vaccine. Label vaccines "Do Not Use" and contact the California Vaccines for Children Program Customer Service Center to report the incident at 877-243-8832.**

**Did you know Flu Order Confirmation is now available on MYVFCVaccines?  
Visit our website at [www.eziz.org](http://www.eziz.org) and log into MYVFCVaccines to confirm your allocations!**