



October 29, 2019

## Vaccine Management During a Power Outage or Emergency

### Safety First!

For any emergency situation, remember to prioritize the safety of your staff and your clinic. The California VFC Program acknowledges the ongoing Public Safety Power Shut-offs (PSPS) and fires that are affecting sites throughout the state. As a result, vaccine transport or relocation may not be feasible or safe, therefore, vaccines would remain at your clinic and vaccine storage units should remain closed.

### Vaccine Shipments

Due to fires that are currently affecting locations throughout California, please check the [UPS website](#) for updates on whether your area could be affected by shipping holds. Do not risk staff safety by waiting for a vaccine shipment if you are in one of the affected areas.

### Restore

Once power is restored or evacuation orders have been lifted, take the following actions:

- If vaccines were relocated, transport the vaccines back to your clinic following the same guidelines for [refrigerated](#) and [frozen](#) vaccine transport. There is no waiting period to return vaccines as long as temperatures of the vaccine storage units are within range.
- If vaccines remained at the clinic and were not transported to an alternate site, download and review the data logger reports.
- If the vaccines were exposed to any out-of-range temperatures during storage or transport, report the incident to the Storage and Handling Online Triage System (SHOTS) through your [MyVFCvaccines](#) account, and follow instructions given by SHOTS.

### Vaccine Viability

Although some vaccines may be stable at certain temperatures beyond the recommended range for a limited period of time, vaccine viability should be determined by the vaccine manufacturers. The California VFC Program has reached out to the vaccine manufacturers and they all have the capacity to support providers who reach out to them to determine vaccine stability.

To help manufacturers determine vaccine viability, consider the following information:

- Find the total time out-of-range and actual temperature exposure (both MIN and MAX temperatures) by downloading the data logger report after the emergency situation has resolved.
- Given that multiple PSPS events have occurred recently, providers should share with manufacturers if vaccines have been exposed to out-of-range temperatures during other PSPS events.

If the manufacturers have deemed vaccines as non-viable, the VFC Program will work with affected providers to replace spoiled vaccines as a result of the PSPS.

For more information, go to the [EZIZ website](#) or refer to the VFC Program letter "[Vaccine Management During Public Safety Power Shut-offs \(PSPS\)](#)." If you have any questions or concerns, please call the VFC Customer Service Center at (877) 243-8832.

**Thank you,**



California Department of Public Health | Immunization Branch

Vaccines for Children (VFC) Program

850 Marina Bay Parkway

Richmond, CA 94804

**Phone: 877-2GET-VFC (877-243-8832)**

**Fax: 877-FAXX-VFC (877-329-9832)**

**Email: [MyVFCVaccines@cdph.ca.gov](mailto:MyVFCVaccines@cdph.ca.gov)**