Cold Chain preparedness

Immunisation Advisory Centre

The influenza programme and winter season places increased demand on vaccine providers, refrigerators and stock management, increasing the risk of cold chain breaches and excursions. We strongly encourage all providers to complete the below checklist **before ordering vaccines** to ensure they are well prepared. In addition to the checklist, it is recommended to complete a Cold Chain Accreditation self-assessment.

Cold Chain checklist for influenza and other winter vaccines.

REMINDER: All vaccines must always be stored between +2°C and +8°C (including for off-site vaccinations). All are marked with an expiry date that must be checked before vaccine administration. ALL vaccinators are responsible for ensuring the vaccines they administer are stored and handled correctly.

Cold Chain Policy

- ☐ Cold Chain Accreditation is valid and Cold Chain Policy has had its annual update – including contact details for your immunisation coordinator.
- ☐ Staff who handle vaccines have read, understood and signed the policy.
- ☐ Fridge thermometer daily min/max temperature logs (plus reset), monthly charts and weekly datalogger downloads completed and saved in an accessible location.
- ☐ **All** staff know process for receiving vaccine deliveries.

Refrigerator

- ☐ Not overstocked – adequate space available for expected vaccine deliveries including allowance for the single syringe dose COVID-19 vaccines.
- ☐ Vaccine boxes stored away from the back and sides of fridge with 2-3cm gap between boxes to maintain good airflow.
- ☐ Vaccine stored in original packaging.
- ☐ Vaccines only removed from fridges immediately prior to administration.
- ☐ Expired stock disposed and soon-to-be-expired stock shifted to front to use first.

Dataloggers

- ☐ Calibrated or checked within the last 12 months or as per manufacturer requirements.
- ☐ Staff responsible for cold chain are confident downloading logger and interpreting log.
- ☐ Set to record at 5-10 minute intervals and logger clock/time is accurate.

Continuous real-time monitoring systems

- ☐ Real-time monitoring system alerts are enabled and active.
- ☐ **All** staff know who is responsible for after-hours monitoring and what to do if an alert is received.

Off-site vaccination

- ☐ Immunisation coordinator has been informed before commencing off-site services to provide support.
- ☐ Appropriate offsite equipment and processes are in place to accommodate vaccine storage requirements.

Emergency planning

- ☐ All staff know what to do when temperature recordings are outside the +2°C to +8°C range or when the alarm goes off.
- ☐ All staff are aware to not remove vaccines from fridge until advised to do so by immunisation coordinator or IMAC.
- ☐ Staff responsible for cold chain know how to prepare emergency chilly bins with correct insulation and datalogger.

For more cold chain resources, see tinyurl.com/54y5ym8z