

# SEASONAL INFLUENZA VACCINATION 2020

## AGED CARE FACILITIES

Please distribute to all doctors and staff in your facility



### Cold Chain Management

#### Minimum Requirements for Aged Care Facilities

This guide is intended to be used in conjunction with Australian Department of Health and Ageing [National Vaccine Storage Guidelines – Strive for 5 \(3<sup>rd</sup> ed\) 2019](#)

- Cold chain is the system of transporting or storing vaccine within the safe temperature range of 2°C to 8°C (strive for 5°C – the midway point).
- Cold chain breach is the exposure of vaccines to temperatures outside the recommended range of 2°C to 8°C, excluding fluctuations up to 12°C lasting less than 15 minutes when restocking, cleaning the fridge or stock taking.
- Ensure that the temperature of the fridge that will be used for vaccine storage is stable (within +2°C to +8°C) and monitored (twice daily temperature checking and recording using a battery operated minimum-maximum thermometer) for **at least 1 week prior to the delivery of vaccines**.
- Allocate a staff member who is the key contact and responsible person for cold chain management and ensure that all staff have an awareness of the main cold chain management requirements. In the absence of the delegated person (for example during leave), ensure that a back-up person has been nominated for vaccine cold chain management and twice daily fridge temperature recordings.
- Refer to the NSW Health Vaccine storage and cold chain management webpage and **online training module for staff education** and other cold chain resources available at:  
<https://www.health.nsw.gov.au/immunisation/Pages/cold-chain-management.aspx>
- Monitoring of the fridge's current, minimum and maximum temperatures must be recorded using a minimum/maximum thermometer recorded twice daily.
- A vaccine temperature chart can be ordered (free of charge) from the Department of Health at:  
<https://beta.health.gov.au/resources/publications/strive-for-5-vaccine-fridge-temperature-chart-poster>
- **Domestic fridges are not recommended for vaccine storage. However, provisions have been made for ACFs that only access seasonal influenza vaccines. If a domestic fridge is used to store vaccines, it should be dedicated to vaccine storage only (that is no food etc is to be stored with the vaccines)**
- **Domestic refrigerators should be modified to ensure a consistent temperature can be maintained (contact your local Public Health Unit to discuss requirements).**
- Bar fridges or cyclic defrost domestic fridges must NOT be used.
- Vaccines must be refrigerated immediately after delivery. The transport cold chain monitors (heat and cold monitors) must be checked on arrival of the vaccines. If the cold chain monitors are noted to be activated, contact the NSW Vaccine Centre on **1300 656 132**.
- If a cold chain breach is noted (i.e. the temperature has been outside +2°C to +8°C , excludes fluctuations up to 12°C lasting less than 15 minutes as specified above) , notify your local PHU immunisation staff on **1300 066 055** as soon as possible. Quarantine the vaccines in the fridge and place a label on the fridge door "Do not use vaccines" until advice has been received from the PHU.