

MEMO

SUBJECT: Vaccine Storage During Severe Weather
Date: February 22, 2023
Pages: 1
To: Health Care Providers
From: WDGPH Vaccine and Medication Administrators

Environment Canada has issued a Freezing Rain Warning for parts of Southern Ontario today into Thursday. Because of the potential of power outages, please review your vaccine contingency plans and consider relocating your vaccine to a Public Health office. Vaccines would have to be dropped off by 3:00 p.m. today. You will have to make arrangements to pick vaccines up from Public Health.

If relocating your vaccine to a Public Health office follow appropriate cold chain protocols:

- Place the vaccine in a hard-sided cooler with appropriate packing material and digital thermometer monitoring devices.
- Conduct an inventory of vaccines while packing for your records.
- Clearly label your bags with your facility name and contact information.
- Number your bags and record the temperature before transporting vaccines.

It is the responsibility of Health Care Providers to maintain temperatures between +2°C and +8°C. If your facility cannot arrange to relocate vaccine to Public Health and a power outage impacts your fridge operations, you should place the vaccine in insulated containers with appropriate packing material and digital thermometer monitoring devices and record the temperature in 30 minute intervals without opening the container.

The following three (3) Public Health offices will accept vaccine:

- 490 Charles Allan Way, **Fergus**
- 160 Chancellor's Way, **Guelph**
- 180 Broadway, **Orangeville**

If you have any questions about packing, dropping off or picking up of vaccines, please call 1-800-265-7293 ext. 7006 (Monday to Friday 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.) or after hours call 1-877-884-8653.

For further information contact:

Vaccine and Medication Administrator

519-822-2715 or 1-800-265-7293 ext. 2622, or 4170 / www.wdgppublichealth.ca