



Durham Region Health Department FAX about...

For Health Care Professionals



Change Your Batteries & Keep Vaccines Stored Safely

It is time to replace the batteries in your vaccine thermometers. Batteries should be changed every six months to ensure temperature monitoring is accurate and cold chain is maintained.

Vaccine Storage & Handling Tips:

- When picking up vaccine orders, ensure your cooler is packed correctly according to [vaccine storage and handling guidelines](#). Bring a chilled cooler (+2.0°C to +8.0°C) with ice packs, water blankets, and a thermometer.
- Order a one-month supply of vaccine at a time.
- Check expiry dates frequently to ensure vaccines and diluents with the earliest expiration dates are used first. Expired vaccines should be removed from the vaccine fridge immediately and returned to the Durham Region Health Department (DRHD) with a completed "[Vaccine Return Form](#)" (Found on [durham.ca/hcp](#) then Forms and Reporting).
- Store all vaccines and diluent in their original packaging and protect them from light.
- Contact DRHD immediately at 905-668-7711 ext. 3063 if vaccine fridge temperatures go below +2.0°C or above +8.0°C and follow your contingency plan. Review "[Cold Chain Instructions for Sites](#)" for more information (found on [durham.ca/hcp](#) then Forms and Reporting).

If you have any feedback about Fax Abouts or wish to recommend a topic for distribution, please email Faxabout@durham.ca.

November 19, 2024

905-668-2020 or 1-800-841-2729 | durham.ca/health

If you require this information in an accessible format, contact 1-800-841-2729.

