



# Durham Region Health Department FAX about...

For Health Care Professionals



## It's Time to Spring Forward and Change Your Batteries!

Vaccine thermometer batteries should be changed every six months to ensure fridge monitoring is accurate and cold chain is maintained (daylight saving time is a helpful reminder). Spring is also a great time to organize and clean your vaccine fridge.

### Spring Cleaning Checklist:

- Change thermometer batteries.
- Check expiry dates for all vaccines and diluents.
- Remove expired products from the fridge immediately upon expiry; return all expired non-COVID-19 products to the Durham Region Health Department with a [completed Vaccine Return Form](#) (or [durham.ca/hcp](http://durham.ca/hcp) then Forms and Reporting). Expired COVID-19 vaccine should be disposed of by the administering organization.
- Store vaccines in the original packaging and organize by product, ensuring vaccines with the closest expiry date are used first.
- Maintain space between vaccines to allow for air circulation and store vaccine on internal shelves.
- Ensure no food, beverages, or specimens are in the vaccine fridge. Cold water bottles are recommended in empty shelves to assist with the regulation of fridge temperatures.
- Defrost freezers.

As a reminder, call the Durham Region Health Department immediately at 905-668-7711 ext. 3063 if fridge temperatures go below +2.0 °C or above +8.0 °C.

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905-668-2020 or 1-800-841-2729 | [durham.ca/health](http://durham.ca/health)

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

