



Durham Region Health Department FAX about...

For Health Care Professionals



It is Time to Change Your Batteries!

Vaccine thermometer batteries should be changed every six months to ensure fridge monitoring is accurate and cold chain is maintained. It's also a great time to clean and organize your vaccine fridge according to the [Vaccine Storage and Handling Guidelines](#).

Summer Refresh 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 > Forms > 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 and drawers to assist with the regulation of fridge temperatures.
- Defrost freezers.

Picking up Vaccine – Reminders:

- Ensure there are sufficient water blankets for the top and bottom of the transport cooler.
- Water blankets must be refrigerated, not frozen.**
- Prepare the transport cooler as per the [Vaccine Storage and Handling Guidelines](#) 1 hour prior to pick up to ensure that the internal temperature is stable between +2.0 °C and +8.0 °C.

Call the Durham Region Health Department immediately at 905-668-7711 ext. 3063 if vaccines are exposed to temperatures below +2.0 °C or above +8.0 °C.

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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.

