



Durham Region Health Department FAX about...

For Health Care Professionals



It's Time to Change Your Batteries!

Vaccine thermometer batteries should be changed every six months to ensure vaccine fridge monitoring is accurate and cold chain is maintained. Fall is also a great time to organize and clean your fridge.

Fall Refresh Checklist:

- Change thermometer batteries.** Mark your thermometer with a label to track the last change date. Refer to thermometer instructions/insert to determine replacement/calibration requirements.
- 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](#) (durham.ca/hcp > Forms > Reporting). Expired COVID-19 vaccine should be disposed of by the administering organization.
- Store vaccines in the original packaging to protect them from light and organize by product, ensuring **vaccines with the closest expiry date are used first**.
- Maintain space between vaccines to allow for air circulation and ensure to only store vaccine on internal shelves (not in drawers, doors or floors).
- 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 needed to ensure no more than 1cm (¼ inch) of ice accumulates along walls.
- Ensure you have all necessary cooler supplies to pick up vaccines.** This includes an insulated cooler, **refrigerated** water blankets, ice packs, and an extra thermometer. **Coolers must be prepared according to [vaccine storage and handling guidelines](#) when picking up vaccines.**

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.

November 3, 2025

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.

