

**Good Samaritan Health & Wellness Center**  
Policies and Procedures

Subject: Storage and handling of Vaccines in Emergency Situations  
Policy #: 5.39

Prepared by: Revision #:

Approved by: Board of Directors

Effective Date: 7/24/2015

## 5.39 Storage and handling of Vaccines in Emergency Situations

### **OBJECTIVE:**

To ensure that temperature requirements are maintained during unusual conditions (i.e. power outages, refrigerator failure, and/or natural disasters) and to prevent loss of vaccines.

### **PROCESS/PROCEDURE:**

It is the policy of this facility to keep daily temperature logs on refrigerators and freezers which house vaccines and to make appropriate arrangements for the storage of such vaccines during unusual conditions.

1. The temperatures of both the refrigerator and the freezer are to be checked twice a day, at the beginning and the end of each work day. The temperature should then be recorded on the refrigerator/freezer log sheet posted on the refrigerator to ensure that the vaccines are being maintained at the appropriate temperatures.
2. It is helpful to store ice packs along the walls, back and in the door racks of the freezer compartment. This helps to stabilize the temperatures. It also provides additional reserve of cold in the event of a power failure or equipment failure.
3. Always have insulated storage chest available with cold packs to house vaccines for possible storage or transport.
4. Varicella must be stored and transported with dry ice and maintained at temperatures of -15 degrees centigrade or colder. All other immunizations can be stored and transferred with coolants and an insulated container with lids.
5. If there is a power outage vaccines must be assessed immediately or as soon as possible and storage arrangements made.
6. If the outage occurs during hours of operation the Administrative Assistant or primary nurse is responsible for making sure that the refrigerator temperatures are within range. If the power is going to be out for an extended period of time at locations housing Vaccines for Children stock, and the refrigerator will not maintain the recommended temperatures, the vaccines should be removed and placed in a storage chest with frozen coolants to maintain temperatures for transport to one of the other sites or to the designated facility for that site.

7. If the outage occurs during non operational hours and is expected to exceed three hours, the Office Manager, Nurse Supervisor, or Chief Executive Officer will be notified to assess the situation and have the following designated staff transport the pediatric vaccines to another site or to a facility with available refrigerator and freezer storage such as a local hospital or emergency management service.

Contact numbers are listed below:

NAME	LOCATION	TELEPHONE #
Rhonda Hunt, Admin Asst	(cell phone)	(770) 289-4059
Lois Bryant, NP	Home	(770) 720-2232
Howard Sohnen, CMO	(cell phone)	(678) 576-7500
Carole Maddux, Exec. Dir.	(cell phone)	(404) 423-8627

8. In the event that the vaccines need to be transported to another facility, the Varicella vaccines must be transported in dry ice. The staff can purchase dry ice from:
  - Ingles Supermarket (706) 692-2696
9. If the power outage occurred after hours, the refrigerator and freezer temperatures must be assessed to make sure that the vaccines were not compromised.
10. If it is found that the vaccines have been compromised the Nurse Supervisor must be notified to contact Vaccines for Children (VFC) regarding how to handle the affected vaccines.  
Private stock vaccines will be handled in the same manner as the VFC vaccines.  
All staff members at the affected location will be notified of the VFC program recommendations regarding the affected vaccines.