

JUVENILE COURT HEALTH SERVICES PHARMACY PROCEDURES

Subject: Emergency Power Outage/Appliance Failure		Original Issue Date: 11/01/13 Supersedes:	Procedure # 045 Effective Date: 11/01/13
Departments Consulted: DHS Pharmacy Affairs JCHS Department of Medicine JCHS Department of Nursing	Approved By: (Signature on File) Pharmacy Supervisor (Signature on File) Medical Director	Approved by: (Signature on File) Health Services Administrator	

Purpose:

To ensure proper steps are taken to safeguard vaccines in the event of a power outage or storage unit failure.

Policy:

Clinic staff shall adhere to the guidelines regarding proper storage and handling of biologics (vaccines) in the event of an emergency power outage or storage unit failure to assure that patients are administered potent vaccines.

Procedure:

1. In the event of a power outage or vaccine storage unit failure:
 - **Notify the Los Angeles County Immunization Program (LACIP) Customer Support Services at the time of the event.** If the power outage or storage unit failure occurs after business hours, notify the Customer Support Services the next business day. Document the event and actions taken.
 - Note the temperature of the refrigerator and freezer at the time of the incident. Be prepared to provide the following information to Customer Support.
 - amount of vaccine in stock (type and # of doses),
 - vaccine lot numbers and expiration dates,
 - date and time of last documented refrigerator/freezer temperatures,
 - maximum temperature of the unit and time the unit was out of range,
 - During the power outage/failure keep the refrigerator and freezer doors closed. This will help to conserve the cold mass of the vaccines.
 - Vaccine may be moved to a back-up storage unit located in the clinic (if available and certified by your Clinic Support Services liaison) that is functioning. Relocate vaccines if temperatures in the affected refrigerator and/or freezer are moving closer to unacceptable limits or if the temperatures are okay, and there is little likelihood that the power outage/failure can be resolved within a reasonable period of time. **CONTACT THE IMMUNIZATION PROGRAM CLINICAL SUPPORT**

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SERVICES @ (213) 351-7800 PRIOR TO TRANSPORTING OR MOVING VACCINES.

- Identified back-up storage units should have a functioning thermometer in each compartment. All vaccine storage units must be certified by the Immunization Program Clinical Support Services prior to use.
- For extended power outages or storage unit failures contact the Customer Support Services for instructions and protocols on how to safely transport the vaccine. The Vaccines should be transported to **Medical Module** at Central Juvenile Hall. Contact the nurse manager at X8801 to ensure there is space available to store the vaccine.
- When the power has been restored, recheck the temperature of the storage unit and report the information to the Customer Support Services. Be sure to record the duration of the increased temperature exposure and the maximum temperature observed. Continue to monitor the temperatures until they reach the normal range (35-46°F for the refrigerator and -58° F to 5°F for the freezer).
- Place the vaccine in paper bag with a label stating “**DO NOT USE**” until the viability of the vaccine can be determined by the Immunization Program. **Do not administer or discard** the vaccine

2. Quality Assurance

- Train all clinic staff on the principles of vaccine storage and handling as well as provide a review of the policy and procedures annually.
- Instruct all new employees to complete the VFC Storage and Handling training during orientation.
- Complete the *Vaccine Storage & Handling Self-Assessment* monthly to ensure compliance with VFC vaccine storage and handling guidelines. To receive a copy of the Self-Assessment, contact the Clinical Support Services.
- Complete a Vaccine Storage and Handling in-service provided by LACIP. Contact your Nurse Consultant for dates and times. This in-service can also be completed online at <http://publichealth.lacounty.gov/ip/trainconf/index.htm>.
- Refer staff to the California on-line VFC immunization training website at <http://www.eziz.org>.

Any questions regarding vaccine storage and handling issues in the event of a power outage or due to appliance failure should be forwarded to Customer Support Services for clarification.

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Los Angeles County Immunization Program

Clinical Support Services (213) 351-7800
Customer Support Services (323) 869-8080