

Flu Vaccine Resources

We would like to share some helpful learning points following a cold chain breach with influenza vaccines at a local practice.

Please see the links at the end to the '*PHE National Influenza Immunisation Programme 2020 to 2021 Inactivated Influenza Vaccine Information for Healthcare Practitioners*' and the '*PHE Vaccine Incident Guidance Document*' which shapes our local guidance.

The guidance dictates that vaccines should be taken out of the fridge on a use by use basis so that if a vaccine is not used it does not have to be discarded, especially this year when adjuvanted Trivalent Influenza Vaccine in particular is in limited supply.

Summary from PHE document:

'Inactivated influenza vaccines should be stored between 2c and 8c and should be stored in the original packaging to protect the vaccine from light. Vaccine should not be removed from the cold chain until it is required for use.'

Should vaccines be inadvertently stored outside the recommended temperature range of 2c to 8c, the vaccine should be quarantined, and risk assessed for suitability of continued off-label use or appropriate disposal. Refer to the Vaccine Incident Guidance document point 7 and seek further advice on vaccine stability and cold chain storage incidents from the vaccine manufacturer and your local NHS England Screening and Immunisation team.'

Advice from PHE: To prevent cold chain breach and storage issues, the easiest and safest option is to take vaccines straight from the fridge, into a medical grade cool bag (which is validated to ensure cold chain at 2-8c for 12 hours with multiple openings) and then if any vaccines are not used, they can be safely returned to the fridge at the end of the day.

PHE National Influenza Immunisation Programme 2020 to 2021 Inactivated Influenza Vaccine Information for Healthcare Practitioners'

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/917251/Inactivated_influenza_vaccine-information_for_healthcare_practitioners_2020_to_2021.pdf

PHE Vaccine Incident Guidance Document'

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/859773/PHE_vaccine_incident_guidance_January_2020.pdf

Useful contacts

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Report vaccine incidents: england.londonscreening-incidents@nhs.net

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