

## Trouble Shooting with Temperatures in Vaccine Fridges

Vaccine fridges must be monitored twice daily. Digital min/max thermometers are used to maintain a constant check that vaccines are being stored between  $+2^{\circ}$  and  $8^{\circ}$ C. The max, min and current temperatures are recorded twice daily to maintain an ongoing record. Make sure to “clear” the thermometer after every reading. If there is an in/out switch, the readings should be the “out” temperatures. Keep the thermometer outside of the fridge, and the probe inside the fridge. The probe should be inside of a box or container, or attached to the outside of a full water bottle, in the centre of the fridge.

### If the temperature is above $+8^{\circ}$ C:

1. Call the health unit for advice (519-663-5317 ext.2330)
2. Ensure the fridge is plugged in and that the door is shut and sealed properly
3. Check the thermostat control inside the fridge
4. Check digital thermometer probe placement inside of fridge (should be in the centre of the fridge inside of an empty vaccine box or attached to a water bottle)
5. Look for items blocking the air circulation
6. Ensure that the freezer does not contain more than 1cm of frost build-up
7. Check the room temperature is not too warm
8. Block windows with blinds if the fridge is in the direct line of the sun
9. Move the vaccine to a stable temperature controlled area to keep it within range
10. Change the battery in the thermometer
11. Call a technician to see if the fridge needs maintenance
12. Do not administer vaccines until the incident is discussed with public health

### If the temperature is below $+2^{\circ}$ C:

1. Call the health unit for advice (519-663-5317 ext.2330)
2. Check the thermostat control inside the fridge
3. Check digital thermometer probe placement inside of fridge (should be in the centre of the fridge inside of an empty vaccine box or attached to a water bottle)
4. Look for items blocking the air circulation
5. Check that the room temperature did not get too warm, making the fridge turn cooler
6. Change the battery in the thermometer
7. Ensure that the freezer does not contain more than 1cm of frost build-up
8. Move the vaccine to a stable temperature controlled area to keep it within range
9. Call a technician
10. Do not administer vaccines until the incident is discussed with public health

References:

Public Health Agency of Canada vaccine handling guidelines (<http://www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/publicat/2007/nvshglp-ldemv/index-eng.php>)

Ontario Ministry of Health and Long Term Care vaccine handling guidelines  
[http://www.health.gov.on.ca/en/pro/programs/publichealth/oph\\_standards/docs/guidance/guide\\_vaccine\\_storage.pdf](http://www.health.gov.on.ca/en/pro/programs/publichealth/oph_standards/docs/guidance/guide_vaccine_storage.pdf)