

## **When the Power goes Off...Vaccine Fridges & Power Failure**

1. **Keep the Exposed Products in the fridge & Keep the fridge door closed**\*\*\*
  - a. Individual biologicals-products vary greatly in their ability to withstand damage due to cold chain breaks (i.e. temperatures out-of the cold chain storage range of  $+2^{\circ}\text{C}$  to  $+8^{\circ}\text{C}$ ). Following a cold chain break VCH will assess the impact on exposed biologicals on a product-by-product basis using the most current product stability information available.
  - b. **\*\*\*exceptions:**
    - i. to briefly open the door to put ice packs in [if they'll fit in without touching the biologicals] ... >> for the best cooling effect put the ice packs on the top shelf.
    - ii. to transfer the biologicals to another working & monitored fridge
2. **'Quarantine' the products** until their condition is determined by VCH:
  - a. Do Not Use any of the exposed products unless directed to by VCH.
  - b. Keep exposed products separated from other biologicals and label them as 'quarantined'. If all of its contents are exposed put a sign on the fridge itself.
3. **Continue temperature monitoring** where possible by recording the:
  - a. Times power went off & came back on
  - b. Fridge Temperature maximum & minimum values
4. **Report the incident details** to your local VCH Community Health Centre ('CHC') as soon as possible and follow the directions given. In addition to the temperature & duration information mentioned above, you'll be asked to send in a list of the exposed products & their expiry dates.
5. **Do not dispose of any Biologicals**. If any of the exposed products are deemed unusable by VCH follow the details given for returning them to your local VCH CHC as Cold Chain break 'wastage'.
6. **Emergency Planning & Prevention:** VCH infosheet 'Vaccine Emergency Plan & Response'