



With preparations underway for handling Covid-19 vaccines, are your storage arrangements ready?

Best Practice – Key Points:

- Always use a dedicated fridge or freezer to store vaccines and diluents
- Make sure the power source is clearly marked 'DO NOT UNPLUG'
- Store each type of vaccine in its original packaging and in a separate container
- Arrange vaccines in the centre of the fridge and avoid the very top and bottom, in the door or touching the walls
- As far as possible allow space for air to circulate between vaccine containers – the fridge should be no more than 50% full
- Place vaccines with the earliest expiry dates in front of those with later dates

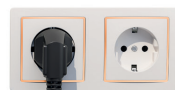


Temperature Monitoring

Many fridges and freezers will have their own built-in temperature logging, but in case the power supply is interrupted the NHS Green Book recommends that a separate data logging system is also used.

- Temperature records should be taken at least twice a day
- Record current temperature, and minimum and maximum
- An independent logging system should be used
- Keep all temperature records for at least one year

DO NOT UNPLUG



Did You Know? EasyLog data loggers automatically create the temperature records you need.



Managing Temperature Excursions



In the event of a refrigerator or freezer failure, act quickly.

- Keep the fridge or freezer door closed until an assessment has been made and an action plan formed
- Inform the relevant provider and/or immunisation coordinator
- Quarantine all affected vaccines and diluents but keep them within the cold chain
- Identify and fix the cause of the fault
- Record all details of the incident



Did You Know? A data logger operating independently of the fridge's power supply will enable you to see whether the affected vaccines have actually suffered a temperature excursion. This can prevent you having to dispose of vaccines that are still effective!

Preparing for the Future

Some leading Covid-19 vaccine candidates, including those under development by Pfizer and Moderna, are mRNA vaccines. Also used for immunizing against Ebola, mRNA vaccines trick the body into producing some of the viral proteins itself, rather than introducing partial or inactive doses of the disease-inducing organism. One important benefit is that the manufacturing process for mRNA vaccines is much faster than for traditional vaccines, a vital consideration in the battle against Covid-19.

EL-WiFi-TC

EL-USB-TC



- mRNA vaccines can be used to react faster to new and evolving diseases
- The vaccines themselves can be extremely fragile and need to be stored as low as -80°C
- Existing equipment often cannot cope with these extremely low temperatures



Did You Know? Data loggers that can measure well below -80°C are already available from EasyLog.

Maintaining Your Equipment

Ensuring the continuity of the vaccine cold chain requires ongoing effort, which includes keeping all storage and monitoring equipment in good working order.

- Don't allow ice to build up in fridges or freezers
- Keep all storage equipment clean
- Service and calibrate your fridge annually
- Independent temperature logging equipment should also be calibrated annually



Did You Know? EasyLog data loggers can be supplied with a calibration certificate, and EasyLog also provides an annual recalibration service.



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Learn more about how easy vaccine storage monitoring can be by searching 'Lascar Vaccine Storage'.

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