

Temperature Form Instructions

All vaccines requiring refrigerated storage should be maintained at temperatures of +2°C to +8°C. Biological products can be inactivated by exposure to excess heat or to freezing, depending on the nature of the product, the temperature reached and the duration of exposure. Damage from successive exposures to adverse conditions is cumulative. This log will help you monitor if your vaccine refrigerator's temperature is adequate to maintain the potency of your vaccines. Refrigerator temperatures between 0°C to +2°C do not compromise vaccine integrity but the temperature should be restored to the +2°C to +8°C range **immediately**. If the refrigerator temperature is outside the 0°C to +8°C range, the vaccines may not be effective in preventing disease. If this occurs, complete the cold chain incident form and contact your local Biological Products Consultant to find out if your vaccines can still be used.

Note: Unlike vaccines, Tubersol® that has been exposed to temperatures in the 0°C to +2°C range is considered to have undergone a cold chain incident; therefore a cold chain incident form should be completed for any exposure of Tubersol® to temperatures outside the **+2°C to +8°C** range.

You can download more copies of the temperature form from <http://www.bccdc.ca/health-professionals/clinical-resources/immunization/vaccine-management>.

Instructions:

1. Record the current, minimum and maximum refrigerator temperatures twice each day, ideally at the start and end of each business day.
2. Record the time the readings were taken, the room temperature, the dial setting of the refrigerator, and your initials.
3. Temperatures can also be plotted by placing an "X" in the box that corresponds to the current refrigerator temperature and a "✓" in the boxes that correspond to the minimum and maximum temperatures the vaccines were exposed to since they were last checked. Plotting the temperature allows for a quick visual assessment of how well the refrigerator temperature is being maintained.
4. Remember to reset your min/max refrigerator thermometer.
5. Keep vaccines and other biological products refrigerated between +2°C to +8°C at all times.
6. If the temperature recorded is in the shaded zones, follow the Cold Chain Incident guidelines available in the BC Immunization Manual, Appendix E – Management of Biologicals at <http://www.bccdc.ca/health-professionals/clinical-resources/communicable-disease-control-manual/immunization>.
7. Retain these records for three years or as locally determined.