



## Storm Season is Coming...

Vaccine service providers, please ensure your medical centres are prepared for power failures. Loss of power may expose vaccines to warm refrigerator temperatures, thereby decreasing their efficacy. Vaccines which have been exposed to cold chain breaches may need to be disposed of or have their shelf life shortened.

Now is the time to check that policy and procedures are in place to safeguard your vaccines. Please refer to the Australian Government's National Vaccine Storage Guidelines, Strive for 5 (3<sup>rd</sup> edition): <https://www.health.gov.au/resources/publications/national-vaccine-storage-guidelines-strive-for-5>

### Now is the time to prepare for the storm season:

- Is your vaccine management protocol current (*updated within the last year*) **AND** all designated staff trained to manage vaccine storage? [Click here](#) for more information on Queensland Health free on-line training
- Do you have the appropriate number of coolers (large enough to hold all vaccine stock on hand), sufficient number of ice/gel packs to prepare the cooler/s and sufficient packing material (e.g. polystyrene chips or other suitable insulating material) to protect the vaccines from direct contact with the ice/gel packs?
- Do you have a digital minimum/maximum thermometer and temperature recording book/chart for each cooler to monitor the vaccine temperature? Ensure the thermometer has had the accuracy checked and the battery changed in the last 12 months. The temperature should be recorded every 15 minutes for the first two hours then hourly thereafter.
- Have all designated staff completed a trial run of the back-up plan?**

#### REPORT ALL TEMPERATURE INCURSIONS (\*) TO:

Queensland Health Immunisation Program  
Email: [QHIP-ADMIN@health.qld.gov.au](mailto:QHIP-ADMIN@health.qld.gov.au)

#### COLD CHAIN BREACHES MANAGED BY:

Gold Coast Public Health Unit  
Phone: (07) 5667 3200  
Email: [gcphucdc@health.qld.gov.au](mailto:gcphucdc@health.qld.gov.au)

(\*) This does not include temperature deviations or excursions in which the temperature reaches a maximum of up to +12°C for 15 minutes or less.