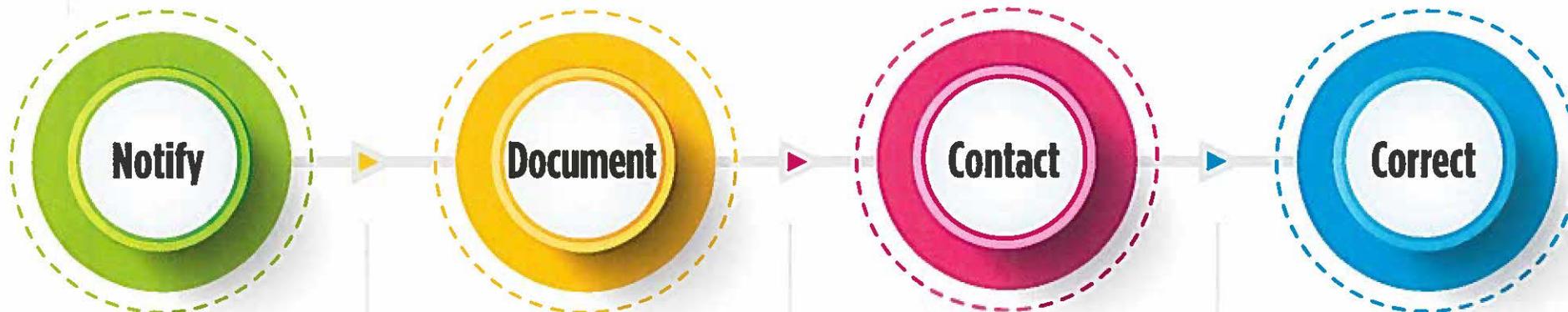


Handling a Temperature Excursion in Your Vaccine Storage Unit

Any temperature reading outside ranges recommended in the manufacturers' package inserts is considered a temperature excursion. Identify temperature excursions quickly and take immediate action to correct them. This can prevent vaccine waste and the potential need to revaccinate patients.



- » Notify the primary or alternate vaccine coordinator immediately or report the problem to a supervisor.
- » Notify staff by labeling exposed vaccines, "DO NOT USE," and placing them in a separate container apart from other vaccines in the storage unit. Do not discard these vaccines.

- » Document details of the temperature excursion:
 - Date and time
 - Storage unit temperature (including minimum/maximum temperatures during the time of the event, if available)
 - Room temperature, if available
 - Name of the person completing the report
 - General description of the event (i.e., what happened)
 - If using a digital data logger (DDL), determine the length of time vaccine may have been affected
 - Inventory of affected vaccines
 - List of items in the unit other than vaccines (including water bottles)
 - Any problems with the storage unit and/or affected vaccines before the event
 - Other relevant information

- » Contact your immunization program and/or vaccine manufacturer(s) for guidance per your standard operating procedures (SOPs).
- » Be prepared to provide the manufacturer or immunization program with documentation and DDL data so they can offer you the best guidance.

Contact manufacturer for excursions:	
Merck	1-800-672-6372
Sanofi Pasteur	1-800-822-2463
GlaxoSmithKline	1-888-825-5249
Pfizer	1-800-438-1985
Seqirus	1-855-358-8966

- » If the temperature alarm goes off repeatedly, do not disconnect the alarm until you have determined and addressed the cause.
- » Check the basics, including:
 - Power supply
 - Unit door(s)
 - Thermostat settings
- » If the excursion was the result of a temperature fluctuation, refer to the chapter, "Vaccine Storage and Temperature Monitoring Equipment," in CDC's *Vaccine Storage and Handling Toolkit* for detailed guidance on adjusting storage unit temperature to the appropriate range.
- » If you believe the storage unit has failed, implement your emergency vaccine SOPs. Never allow vaccines to remain in a nonfunctioning unit.



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