

<b>Responsible Officer:</b>	Director of Clinical Practice Initiatives
<b>Responsible Office:</b>	Clinical Operations
<b>Origination Date:</b>	4/2017
<b>Date of Revision:</b>	Not Applicable
<b>Scope:</b>	UCR SOM Owned and Managed Faculty Practice Sites

**I. Policy Summary**

To set forth the process for safeguarding temperature-sensitive vaccines/medications in the event of a power outage.

**II. Definitions**

Refer to Standard Definitions Guide

**III. Policy Text**

All UCR Health Practice locations will follow the emergency vaccine/medication retrieval and storage plan in order to ensure temperature-sensitive vaccines/medications are safeguarded in the event of a power outage.

**IV. Responsibilities**

UCR Health faculty and staff

**V. Procedure**

**A. Determine the cause of the power failure:**

1. Check plug and wall socket
2. Check circuit breaker
3. Contact property manager to determine if outage is building wide
4. Contact the utility company to determine if power outage is widespread and for status updates

**B. For Short Term Power Outage (under 2 hours)**

1. Do not open the refrigerator or freezer door
2. Monitor and log temperatures each half hour to ensure range stays between 36° and 46° Fahrenheit
3. In the event the temperature moves out of range or if outage is expected to last longer than 2 hours, temperature-sensitive vaccines/medication must be transported to an alternate refrigerated area

**C. Contact Clinical Affairs Practice Manager for instructions.**

If asked to perform the transfer, the following procedures apply:

1. Use an insulated container; include a thermometer along with the vaccines.

2. Keep a temperature log. Record the temperature during transport and periodically during the entire time the vaccine is kept in the insulated container to ensure it remains within the recommended range.

**a. Inactivated vaccines**

**Tetanus-diphtheria (Td)**

**Hepatitis A**

**Hepatitis B**

**Influenza, inactivated**

**Pneumococcal**

**Meningococcal**

**Combination products of these vaccines**

- Keep cold at 35–46°F (2–8°C) and do not freeze.
- Use refrigerated or frozen packs.
- During transport, never let inactivated vaccine vials directly touch ice packs. Make sure vaccines are kept in their original boxes when possible. Put some crushed paper between the boxes to keep the vaccines from shifting during transport.
- During hot weather, keep the insulated container in a cool place (air-conditioned interior of car). Do not leave the vaccine container unattended or in the trunk of a parked car.

**b. Live virus vaccines**

- **Measles, mumps, rubella (MMR)**

Keep cold at all times, 35–46°F (2–8°C) or colder. May use frozen packs.

- **Varicella**

Clearly mark the vaccine with the date and time it was removed from the original freezer unit. It is extremely important to include a thermometer in the container with the vaccine. Transport the vaccine on frozen packs. If the temperature within the container exceeds 5°F (-15°C) but doesn't go above 46°F (8°C), the expiration date of the vaccine is reduced to 72 hours. Vaccine that has reached temperatures above 46°F (8°C) or has exceeded the 72-hour limit cannot be used.

If the power failure occurs during non-clinic hours and temperature of the refrigerator and or freezer has gone out of range please refer to the *Refrigerator Temperature Controls* Policy and Procedure.

**VI. Forms and Attachments**

Not Applicable

**VII. Related Information**

Policy Number 950-03-007 *Refrigerator Temperature Controls*

**VIII. Revision History**

New Policy

Approval(s):

COMPLIANCE COMMITTEE (07/25/2017)