Cold chain breach protocol

1. Immediately isolate the vaccines and prepare to transfer them into temporary monitored vaccine storage, if necessary. Start conditioning ice packs/gel packs.

2. Keep vaccines refrigerated between +2°C and +8°C for as long as possible, and label them ‘Do not use’ while preparing to transfer them.

3. Contact your state or territory health department as soon as possible (during business hours).

4. Do not discard any vaccine until advised to do so by your state or territory health department.

5. Take steps to correct the problem and to prevent it from recurring.

6. For privately purchased vaccines, contact the manufacturer for advice.

Reporting a cold chain breach

When notifying your state or territory health department of a cold chain breach, be prepared to report:

1. the length of time the temperature of the vaccine refrigerator was outside the +2°C to +8°C temperature range

2. the type and number of vaccines in the refrigerator.

Number for state or territory health department

For further information, please refer to Appendix 3 of the National Vaccine Storage Guidelines: Strive for 5, 3rd edition, 2019.

Copies of this poster can be ordered or downloaded from the Australian Government Department of Health website: www.health.gov.au/immunisation.