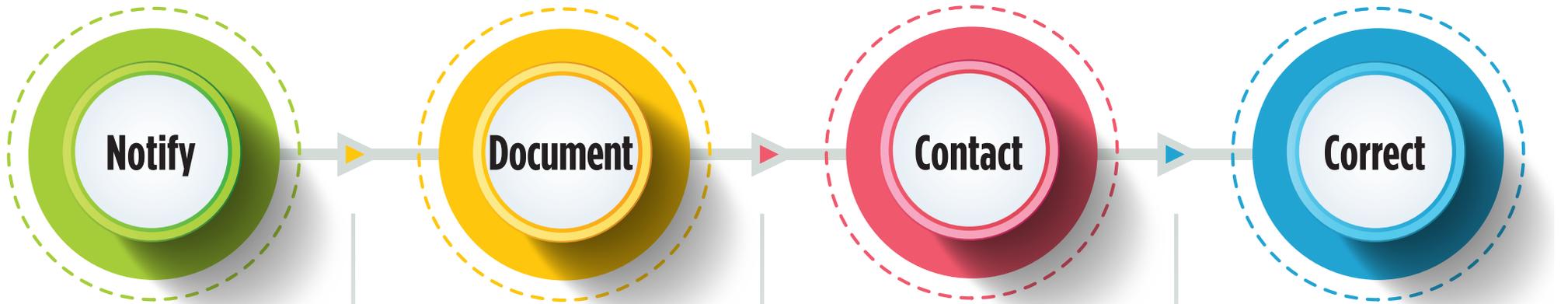


# Handling a Temperature Excursion in Your Vaccine Storage Unit

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:

<b>Merck</b>	1-800-672-6372
<b>Sanofi Pasteur</b>	1-800-822-2463
<b>GlaxoSmithKline</b>	1-888-825-5249
<b>Pfizer</b>	1-800-438-1985
<b>Seqirus</b>	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.



**U.S. Department of  
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