

Prepare for the storm season. Safeguard your vaccines.

The summer storm season inevitably brings with it the risk of power failures. Domestic refrigerators will maintain an adequate temperature for up to four hours during a power failure while bar fridges have less time. Purpose-built vaccine refrigerators may only **maintain an adequate temperature for up to 20 minutes**, especially if it has a glass door. If you lose power you may need to urgently transfer vaccines into alternative storage, such as a cooler.

Now is the time to check that everything is in place so that you can be confident that your vaccines will be safe as possible. Remember to refer to the National Vaccine Storage Guidelines for further information.

Do you have the following?

- Appropriate cooler box/es large enough to take all your vaccines?
- A sufficient number of ice bricks with which to chill the cooler box?
- A freezer where the ice bricks can be stored ready for use?
- Sufficient packaging material, such as bubble-wrap, in which to wrap the vaccines?
- A digital minimum/maximum thermometer for each cooler box to monitor the vaccines?
- Written procedures for staff to follow, and you have completed a trial run?

If the answer is no to any of these questions, please check the Vaccine Management resource on General Practice Queensland's website <http://vaccinemanagement.gpql.com.au/> or contact your local Population Health Unit or Division of General Practice for further advice.