

Refrigerators for Covid-19 vaccine storage – Quick Reference Guide

- Use a specialist medicines fridge (not a domestic one).
- **Install the fridge according to the manufacturer's instructions.**
- The alarm should be audible.
- **Before stocking the fridge, monitor it for a day to check the temperatures are always between 2-8°C and that the alarm works. Adjust the temperature setting if necessary.**
- Fridge performance can be affected during transit. Monitor closely after relocation for 24hrs.
- **Load the fridge carefully – leave room for air to circulate.**
- **Use two thermometers:**
 - ✓ Inbuilt max/min – measures air temperature.
 - ✓ Independent – This measures product temperature and should have an inbuilt data logger which monitors continuously. As a minimum it must display current, max and min temps. The probe should be located inside a mocked-up product.
- **All thermometers must be calibrated annually.**
- **All staff MUST understand how to use & monitor the fridge.**
- Keep the fridge clean and well maintained.

1. Read

- Check max, min & current temperatures at the beginning and end of each day, and every time the fridge is opened.
- Check that the independent probe is still in its mocked-up product. The product should be similar in size to the actual product being stored.
- Check that the air probe has air freely circulating around it.
- These tasks can be delegated, but the responsibility remains with the clinical supervisor.

2. Record

- Record the beginning and end of day readings on a log (see Green Book ch. 3 for an example). Be careful to enter the numbers in the right columns.
- Sign the log.
- The clinical supervisor should periodically (min weekly) check the log to ensure it has been completed properly.

3. Reset

- After reading, reset the max/min thermometers. This is important so that the next time the temperatures are read they give an accurate picture.
- Reset the thermometers after dealing with alarms and out-of-limit results.

4. React

- If any readings are not between 2-8°C, or if the alarm sounds **TAKE IMMEDIATE ACTION.**
- Check the fridge is plugged in, switched on and that the door is closed.
 - Check the thermometer probes are in the correct position.
 - If in doubt, move the stock to another fridge if you can.
 - Quarantine the stock and clearly label as not for use.
 - Report to the clinical supervisor without delay. Refer to PHE Vaccine Incident guidance.