

## Cold Chain Breach Escalation Pathway

### TEMPERATURE FOUND TO BE OUTSIDE THE RECOMMENDED RANGE OF +2°C AND +8°C.

This **excludes** fluctuations of up to 12 degrees for less than 15 minutes (for example when restocking the fridge or rotating stock).



#### Ward Role:

- If temperature currently within range – quarantine stock **inside** fridge. **DO NOT DISCARD STOCK.**
- If temperature out of range – move quarantined stock to alternative medication fridge (another ward or to pharmacy)
- Place sign “**STOP! DO NOT USE THIS STOCK**” on the outside of the fridge door.
- Review transmitter probe information online.
- In business hours - Ward Manager or Team Leader to notify Pharmacy, providing transmitter probe information and vaccine refrigerator temperature chart recordings.
- Out of business hours - After Hours Manager to be notified, escalating to Pharmacist on Call if required.
- Source alternative stock within facility until further notice.
- Document the date and time breach identified and reported on the vaccine refrigerator temperature chart.
- Complete IIMS once impact on stored medications is determined by Pharmacy or Public Health Unit.



#### Pharmacy Role:

- Ensure stock is adequately quarantined and appropriately labelled.
- Review transmitter probe information and vaccine refrigerator temperature chart from affected fridge.
- Determine impact on the medication inside the fridge. Record the outcome and keep on file.
- Escalate to Operational Nurse Manager, further escalating to General Manager if stored medication is affected.
- Decommission and Recommission the transmitter probe if refrigerator is shut down for repairs.



#### IF VACCINES STORED IN THIS FRIDGE ... THEN

- Pharmacy to contact Public Health Unit (PHU) on 1300 066 055 in business hours.
- Await advice on actions required due to breach.
- Record the outcome and keep record on file.



#### Public Health Unit Role:

- Review data and information supplied by facility to identify if a vaccine Cold Chain Breach has occurred.
- Advise Health Protection NSW who will formulate actions to be implemented as required.
- Liaise with facility to follow up actions as required.