When a storage incident occurs…

1. Locate your vaccine storage emergency procedures (VSEP) and implement.

2. Contact your local health department for guidance if no VSEP is in place.

3. If the storage incident is expected to be on-going (long term power outage etc.,) and alternative storage with reliable power sources are available and approved (i.e. hospital with generator power), transfer to that facility can be considered. Transport the vaccine following proper cold chain procedures.

4. Contact a refrigeration service provider immediately if unit is malfunctioning (e.g., not as a result of being unplugged or door being left open).

5. Record the cause of the incident (power outage, refrigerator malfunction etc.)

6. When an incident occurs, check the temperature in the unit, and then leave the unit closed until the incident is over! Do not open units to repeatedly check temperatures. Do record the temperature as soon as possible after the incident and keep the doors closed. Review your temperature logs for time periods prior to the incident to determine the degree of fluctuation.

7. Record the duration of the out of range temperature exposure and record the minimum and maximum temperature observed.

8. Record all relevant information regarding the incident; include time frames, temperature last recorded before incident, current temperature, inventory of vaccines affected by vaccine type and lot.

9. If you are concerned about the exposure or efficacy of any of your vaccine stock, do not administer the vaccine until you have consulted your local health department or the manufacturer.

10. Keep exposed vaccine separated from any new product you receive and continue to store at the proper temperature.

11. Do not discard any exposed vaccine. Any vaccine determined not to be viable may be returned to your vaccine supplier. Your local health department will work with you on all vaccine they supply to you.

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION AND GUIDANCE, CONTACT TCPHSS OR THE VACCINE MANUFACTURER.