

Recommendations for maintenance of Vaccine Fridge within Temperature during a Planned Power-cut

Keep the room as cold as possible.

Without power the fridge will come to room temperature therefore if the room temperature remains at +8 °C or below then the fridge cannot exceed +8 °C. The lower the temperature of the room, the slower the rate the fridge increases in temperature. Reduce room temperature by leaving the window wide open, if that is not a possibility keep internal doors open and turn off any heating well in advance of the planned outage. If the fridge is in a room with a south facing window, close the blinds to prevent the sunshine heating the room.

Fill your fridge.

A full fridge will not fluctuate in temperature as quickly as a half full fridge. Place vaccines on higher shelves without touching the sides of the fridge. If the bottom is empty, fill this space with containers of very cold salty water (use empty milk cartons/ plastic bottles filled with salty water) and place in fridge the day before to allow the containers to come to fridge temperature before the power outage.

Also where possible just before the power cut place one or two ice blocks under the water containers. The ice block will only freeze the water. If you do not have sufficient space for the water containers place wrapped ice blocks in the fridge. It is vital that the vaccines do not freeze, therefore double wrap the ice block with bubble wrap or else with newspaper. Use a lot of paper so that the ice-block will retain its cold and thaw slowly. The ice-block should never come in contact with the vaccines.

If there is space between the shelves (between top of vaccines and shelf above) place newspapers in this area. This can be done day before so that the newspaper will be at the fridge temperature before outage.

Lock the fridge

Do not open the fridge once the power is lost. The only exception to this is if there is a room thermometer and the ambient temperature is less than + 8 °C.

Record the temperature

Record the temperature, and erase the maximum and minimum recording before the outage. Therefore when the power returns the maximum recording will be a true value for the temperature during the outage. Record the temperature immediately once it returns. Please note the maximum temperature and contact NIO – 087 9915452 if it exceeds + 8 °C.

Datalogger

Purchase a datalogger. A datalogger is a USB temperature data logger for use in vaccine fridges independent of fridge power supply. This can store up to a year's worth of data (16,382 readings). This device will give the temperature recording and time so that the duration of the temperature breach is exact.

ENSURE VACCINES ARE INSURED