

Immunization Branch

Women and Children's Health Section
Division of Public Health
NC Department of Health and Human Services
www.immunizenc.com



FAX TRANSMISSION COVER SHEET

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DATE: August 24, 2011

TO: ALL NCIP VACCINE PROVIDERS

FAX: BLAST FAX

RE: HURRICANE IRENE

SENDER: NC IMMUNIZATION BRANCH

To ensure your facility is ready for the approaching Hurricane Irene, please take a moment to review your storage and handling practices:

- 1) Make sure you fill the extra spaces in your refrigerator with water jugs and line the bottom and sides of your freezer with ice packs.
- 2) Ensure a working thermometer is in the refrigerator and the freezer.
- 3) Log the time, date, and current temperature of the freezer and refrigerator before you leave for the day.
- 4) Review your disaster recovery plan with staff; update if necessary.
- 5) If you have a power outage, do not assume vaccine is not viable – record the date, time and temperature when you return to the clinic and call us so that we can work with you to determine if the vaccine is still viable.
- 5a) Once the temperature reaches 8°C or warmer in the refrigerator, or -15°C or warmer in the freezer, begin your disaster recovery procedures.
 - 5b) Move the vaccine to a properly working unit with regularly recorded in range temperatures.
 - 5c) Do not discard vaccine and do not administer affected vaccines until you have discussed the viability of the vaccine with the Immunization Branch.
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Please take time to review the *NCIP Minimum Required Vaccine Ordering, Handling, and Storage Procedures* revised May 2011, located at this link:

<http://bit.ly/Hurricane2011>

If you need help getting ready call the Customer Service staff at 1-877-873-6247.

YOU SHOULD RECEIVE 1 PAGE(S), INCLUDING THIS COVER SHEET. IF YOU HAVE QUESTIONS, PLEASE CALL 877-873-6247.