IN THIS ISSUE:
- Vaccine Cold Chain Failures due to Ice Storm Power Outages

FROM:
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As a result of the inclement weather over the weekend, many areas of Peel experienced power outages. Cold chain failures for vaccine fridges may have occurred if your offices were affected at any time by this power outage.

If your vaccine fridge reached a temperature of < +2.0°C or >+8.0°C, the vaccines in your fridge have experienced a cold chain failure. If this is the case in your office:

1. Keep your vaccine fridge closed.
2. Place a sign on your fridge “Do Not Use Vaccines: Cold Chain Failure”.
3. Complete a Vaccine Stability Assessment Worksheet (attached).
4. Attach temperature logs for the month of December to the completed worksheet.
5. Fax the completed worksheet and temperature logs to (905) 565-9874 Attention: VMPI PHN

When your temperature logs and vaccine stability worksheet are received, a Public Health Nurse (PHN) will contact you regarding the stability and recommendations for use of your vaccines. You may need to re-schedule appointments that require a routine vaccine to be administered if your vaccine is not recommended for use.

If you have a situation that requires special consideration, please contact a PHN for consultation at 905-791-7800, ext 2840.

Key Points:
- Check your vaccine fridge current, minimum, and maximum temperatures.
- If you have experienced a cold chain failure, it must be reported immediately to Peel Public Health. Do not use the vaccine until assessed by a Public Health Nurse.