

USVI VACCINE FOR CHILDREN NEWS

SUMMER 2022

EMERGENCY VACCINES PROCEDURES AND TRANSPORT

It's that time of the year again! Hurricane season occurs from June 1st to November 30th. It is important for immunization providers to maintain up-to-date Vaccine Emergency Management Plans to ensure that they are prepared in the event of any occurrence that could jeopardize vaccine storage, including equipment failures, power outages, severe weather conditions, or natural disasters.

Here are some things to consider when developing and/or reviewing your **Vaccine Emergency Management Plan**:

BACKUP EQUIPMENT

Ensure that all staff knows where backup equipment is located:

- Certified, a calibrated, backup temperature monitoring device (temperature data logger) - if you need to transport vaccines off-site, you will need to monitor the temperatures in your transport cooler.
- Flashlight and spare batteries (in case of a

power outage)

- Vaccine transport supplies: coolers, frozen water bottles, and buffer materials
- (e.g., bubble wrap, cardboard, etc.).

Review your Emergency Plan to ensure that all staff know how to use your backup equipment and are familiar with packing vaccines in an emergency. Run through your procedures, practice packing vaccines (you can use expired vaccines as a stand-in), and monitor your "practice" vaccine cooler temperature to ensure that you would be able to maintain appropriate vaccine storage temperatures during an emergency.

GENERATORS AND BACKUP ENERGY SUPPLY

Generators: Ensure that you have sufficient fuel on hand to continuously operate the generator for at least 72 hours.

Backup Battery: Check the manufacturer's guidance for quarterly testing procedures and maintenance schedules.



Check out our updated website!

You'll find up-to-date information on the VFC program along with other great information.

We've also included the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) *How to Recommend Video Series*, please visit doh.vi.gov/programs/immunizations.



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