



# Durham Region Health Department FAX about...

For Health Care Professionals



## It's Time to Spring Forward and Change Your Batteries

Vaccine thermometer batteries should be changed every six months to ensure vaccine fridge monitoring is accurate and cold chain is maintained (Daylight Savings Time is a helpful reminder). Spring is also a great time for a spring cleaning of your vaccine fridge.

### Spring cleaning checklist:

- Check the expiry dates of all vaccines and diluents.
- Ensure expired products are removed from the fridge and return all expired non-COVID-19 products to the Durham Region Health Department (DRHD) with a [completed Vaccine Return Form \(or find the Vaccine Return Form at \[durham.ca/hcp\]\(http://durham.ca/hcp\) then Forms and Reporting\)](#). Expired COVID-19 vaccine should be disposed of by the administering organization.
- Store vaccines in the original packaging and organize by product, ensuring vaccines with the closest expiry date are used first.
- Maintain space between vaccines to allow for air circulation and store vaccine on internal shelves.
- Ensure no food, beverages, or specimens are in the vaccine fridge. Cold water bottles are permitted to assist with the regulation of fridge temperatures.

As a reminder, please call DRHD immediately at 905-668-7711 ext. 3063 if fridge temperatures go below +2.0 °C or above +8.0 °C.

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905-668-2020 or 1-800-841-2729 | [durham.ca/health](http://durham.ca/health)

If you require this information in an accessible format, contact 1-800-841-2729.

