



Department of Health and Human Services  
Maine Center for Disease Control and Prevention  
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To: Maine Immunization Providers  
From: Maine Immunization Program  
Subject: **McKesson Vaccine Delivery Suspension**/Emergency Vaccine Storage and Handling Advisory Reminder  
Date: February 11, 2014

**McKesson will be suspending shipping February 12 & 13 due to anticipated inclement weather hitting the Northeast. With some medical practices expected to close, and FedEx not being able to deliver due to weather conditions, this will cut down on the risk of vaccine getting sent back to McKesson as nonviable.**

With the approach of inclement weather expected over the next two days, an interruption in the power supply is always an issue of concern. To protect the vaccine inventory and minimize potential monetary loss, every facility that stores vaccines issued by the Maine Immunization Program should take time to do the following **prior to** the event of a power outage.

- Review your emergency back-up plan and make sure all aspects of it are in order.
- Designate both a primary and back-up vaccine coordinator to be notified of power outages at the facility. Include emergency contact numbers and instructions for gaining 24-hour access to where the vaccines are stored.
- Train staff on the emergency back-up plan and keep plan on or near the vaccine storage unit(s) to make it easily accessible should power outage occur.
- Identify an alternative storage facility (hospital, another provider's facility, retail or clinic pharmacies, long term care facilities, etc.) with back-up power (i.e., a generator) where you can properly store and monitor the vaccine for the duration of the storm. Make advance arrangements with the facility to ensure there is adequate space to safely store your vaccines.
- Obtain and store an adequate number/amount of appropriate packing containers and materials (frozen and refrigerated gel packs, bubble wrap, coolers) in the facility that will be needed to pack vaccines for safe transport. For additional guidance on packing vaccines for transport see Transporting Refrigerated Vaccine at: <http://www.eziz.org/assets/docs/IMM-983.pdf>.
- Develop written procedures for managing potentially compromised vaccines and include contact information for vaccine manufacturers and the Maine Immunization Program.

A power outage has significant implications for vaccine storage. Allow sufficient time for packing and transporting vaccines **before** the storm can adversely affect local conditions. For additional CDC guidance regarding vaccine storage issues during temporary power outages, see Impact of Power Outages on Vaccine Storage at: <http://www.bt.cdc.gov/disasters/poweroutage/vaccinestorage.asp>.

If you have any questions, please contact the Maine Immunization Program Health Educators at:  
Phone (207) 287-3746 or (800) 867-4775, Email: [ImmunizeME.DHHS@Maine.gov](mailto:ImmunizeME.DHHS@Maine.gov)

Sincerely,

Tonya Philbrick, BS, NCMA  
Director, Maine Immunization Program