

**Health**

Public Health and Primary Health Care
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Santé

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Tél.: 204-788-6737
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April 4, 2011

Dear Colleague

RE: Manitoba Health Cold Chain Protocol and Return Policy for Immunizing Agents and Biologics**Cold Chain Protocol:**

Improper storage and handling of immunizing agents and biologics can lead to decreased effectiveness and may not provide Manitobans with the expected protection against diseases.

To assist Health Care Providers to prevent this from occurring Manitoba Health has released a *Cold Chain Protocol for Immunizing Agents and Biologics*.

The Protocol includes:

- Cold chain responsibilities
- Management and accountability
- Storage and handling procedures
- Equipment standards
- Management and reporting of cold chain failures
- Worksheets and Resources

The Manitoba Health Cold Chain Protocol for Immunizing Agents and Biologics is available on the Manitoba Health website at <http://www.gov.mb.ca/health/publichealth/cdc/coldchain.html>.

Cold chain resources can be ordered through the Materials Distribution Agency at no cost from <http://www.gov.mb.ca/health/jmc/index.html>.

Return Policy:

Immunizing agents and biologics that were provided by Manitoba Health that are either expired or have been exposed to temperatures outside of 2-8°C and deemed unusable are to be returned to the provincial vaccine warehouse for potential cost recovery and proper disposal.

Please refer to the *Immunizing Agents and Biologics Return Policy and Procedure* located on the Manitoba Health website at <http://www.gov.mb.ca/health/publichealth/cdc/div/info.html>

Please share this communication with all relevant colleagues in your facility or clinic. Active participation and cooperation of all health care staff in addressing these notices is most appreciated.

Please contact the Inventory Administrative Officer at (204) 788-6722 with any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

“Original signed by”

Inga Hossack
Inventory Administrative Officer
Manitoba Health
Communicable Disease Control Branch