Checklist
V1 / August 2020

Vaccine Potency
Checklist for Managing a Power Failure

To ensure vaccine potency, our practice follows the steps outlined in this Checklist for Managing a Power Failure as per Appendix 9 in the National Vaccine Storage Guidelines 'Strive for 5' 3rd edition.
'

Steps	Action Required	Done
1	Immediately isolate the vaccines and keep them refrigerated between +2°C and +8°C. Leave the vaccines in the refrigerator with the door closed. Put a sign on the refrigerator door stating: 'Power out. Do not use vaccines. Keep refrigerator door closed.'	☐
2	Closely monitor the refrigerator temperature. Ensure that the display of the minimum/maximum thermometer is outside the refrigerator so that readings can be obtained without opening the refrigerator door.	☐
3	Immediately begin to condition ice packs/gel packs as per Section 9.2 of *Strive for 5*. Begin this process even if you have been informed that the power will return shortly.	☐
4	Place additional ice packs/gel packs in a cooler to pre-chill the cooler.	☐
5	Transfer vaccines to the cooler when the minimum/maximum thermometer shows that the temperature of the refrigerator is outside the recommended +2°C to +8°C range. If unable to read the thermometer, transfer vaccines as soon as ice packs/gel packs are conditioned. Pack the cooler as per Section 9.3 of *Strive for 5*. If a minimum/maximum thermometer is available, place the probe in the cooler and the display outside the cooler.	☐
6	Monitor and record the cooler temperature every 15 minutes for the first 2 hours, then at least hourly (provided the temperatures are stable).	☐
7	Ensure that a data logger is placed directly next to vaccines in the cooler.	☐
8	Do not open the cooler until vaccines can be transferred to a purpose-built vaccine refrigerator.	☐
9	If more suitable vaccine storage is available (e.g. at a hospital with an essential power generator), transfer vaccines in a cooler to the more suitable option. Ensure that the data logger always remains with the vaccines.	☐
10	If you know that power will be out for more than 24 hours, consider transferring vaccines to alternative vaccine storage, if available, at the nearest facility with power.	☐

WA Primary Health Alliance is supported by funding from the Australian Government under the PHN Program.
Rural Health West is funded by the Australian Government and WA Country Health Service.