

### **3.14: Emergency Power Outage Protocol**

**Purpose:** To establish a protocol for how to maintain safe, temperature-controlled storage for vaccines in case of a power outage.

#### **I. Background**

1. The Scioto County Health Department stores vaccines in the following temperature-controlled units:
  - (a) Pharmaceutical grade refrigerator/standard freezer combination for publicly-funded vaccines.
  - (b) Pharmaceutical grade refrigerator/standard freezer combination for privately-purchased vaccines.
  - (c) Ultracold freezer for Pfizer COVID-19 vaccines.
2. All of the above vaccines storage units have 24/7 remote temperature monitoring systems that notify the public health nurses of power/internet outages and temperature excursions, by sending email and cell phone alerts.
3. The Scioto County Health Department has an on-site generator hooked up to a public natural gas line and powered 24/7. It tests automatically twice a month. If there is a power outage, it turns on automatically, to prevent any interruption of service to the vaccine storage units. As long as the generator is operating properly, there should be no temperature excursions even in the event of a prolonged power outage. Therefore, it is highly unlikely that vaccine would have to be moved to a remote facility for storage during a power outage.
4. The Scioto County Health Department has a memorandum of cooperation with Southern Ohio Medical Center (SOMC), whereby SOMC agrees to store SCDH's vaccine in SOMC's inpatient pharmacy in appropriate temperature-controlled pharmaceutical storage units. This agreement can be found in the Scioto County Health Department Vaccines for Children Manual. (See Appendix B)
5. In the unlikely event of a power outage and generator failure at the same time, the following protocol should be followed. This protocol should also be followed in case of equipment failure (the refrigerator/freezer/ultracold freezer units are out of order and we do not have adequate capacity in on-site backup units.)

#### **II. Protocol:**

1. If a power interruption to the refrigerator/freezer/ultracold freezer units is identified, the person who receives the alert or observes the power outage

- should call Tracey Henderson, Nursing Director, 740-876-2300, or Vickie Patrick, Back-up Vaccine Coordinator, at 740-727-1558. If neither Tracey nor Vickie is available, call Kristyn McLaughlin at 740-352-0145.
2. The nurse (Tracey Henderson, Vickie Patrick, or Kristyn McLaughlin) will check the Accsense Monitoring account to see when the last temperature was recorded and determine if it is a temperature excursion, power outage, or internet outage.
  3. If there is a temperature excursion, or power outage that has resulted in a temperature excursion, the nurse will immediately go in to the health department to inspect the units, including backup monitors, and see if the generator is working.
  4. If the generator and/or the refrigerator/freezer/ultracold freezer units are Not working, the nurse will call the Southern Ohio Medical Center's inpatient pharmacy at 740-356-8113, and ask to speak to Rory Phillips, SOMC Pharmacy Director, or the SOMC Pharmacist on call. The nurse will inform the pharmacy that we are about to deliver vaccine in need of temporary temperature-controlled storage in their pharmacy.
  5. The nurse will inventory vaccine to be transported, and load it into temperature-controlled vaccine mobile clinic storage containers. These containers will be taken to SOMC and a copy of the inventory given to the pharmacist in charge. Any vaccine that has experienced a temperature excursion must be labeled as such.
  6. The nurse will notify the Ohio Department of Health Immunization Line 1-614-466-4643 (immediately if during business hours, otherwise at the beginning of the next business day) of the transfer to emergency storage and reason, and if any vaccine was subjected to a temperature excursion.
  7. In the case of a temperature excursion, the nurse will follow ODH's and The manufacturer's guidelines on whether or not the vaccines can be used or must be discarded.
  8. When power is restored, the nurse will notify SOMC Pharmacy and will pick up the vaccine, check the inventory, and transport it back to the Scioto County Health Department in temperature-controlled vaccine mobile clinic units.

***SOMC Backup Vaccine Storage – Appendix B – Page 149***

**APPENDIX B**

# Southern Ohio Medical Center

*Very Good things are happenfng here*

Main Campus  
18057<sup>th</sup> Street  
Portsmouth, Ohio 45662  
740-336-8000  
www.somc.org


Tracey Henderson  
Scioto County Health Nurse  
Scioto County Health Department  
812 6<sup>th</sup> St, Suite D  
Portsmouth, OH 45662

Dear Tracey,

SOMC agrees to provide backup vaccine storage in the event that the Scioto County Health Department is unable to maintain adequate temperature control of their refrigerated and/or frozen vaccines. In this event, the Scioto County Health Department is responsible to transport the vaccine in temperature-controlled containers and to bring them to the inpatient hospital pharmacy. The SOMC pharmacy will store these medications in our refrigerators/freezers/ultra-cold freezers as appropriate, until which time the Scioto County Health Department is able to provide adequate temperature control. At this time, the Scioto County Health Department will retrieve these vaccines in temperature-controlled containers from SOMC.

  
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Rory Phillip, BSPH, MBA, RPh  
Director of Pharmacies and Respiratory Therapy

3/28/22  
Date

  
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Tracey Henderson, BSN, RN  
Director of Nursing  
Scioto County Health Department

3/28/2022  
Date