

## Cold chain breach protocol

- 1 Immediately isolate the vaccines and prepare to transfer them into temporary monitored vaccine storage, if necessary. Start conditioning ice packs/gel packs.
- 2 Keep vaccines refrigerated between +2°C and +8°C for as long as possible, and label them 'Do not use' while preparing to transfer them.
- 3 Contact your state or territory health department as soon as possible (during business hours).
- 4 Do not discard any vaccine until advised to do so by your state or territory health department.
- 5 Take steps to correct the problem and to prevent it from recurring.
- 6 For privately purchased vaccines, contact the manufacturer for advice.

## Reporting a cold chain breach

When notifying your state or territory health department of a cold chain breach, be prepared to report:

- 1 the length of time the temperature of the vaccine refrigerator was outside the +2°C to +8°C temperature range
- 2 the type and number of vaccines in the refrigerator.

**Number for state or  
territory health department**

For further information, please refer to Appendix 3 of the *National Vaccine Storage Guidelines: Strive for 5*, 3rd edition, 2019.

Copies of this poster can be ordered or downloaded from the Australian Government Department of Health website: [www.health.gov.au/immunisation](http://www.health.gov.au/immunisation).