

Information for immunisation providers including pharmacies, clinics and hospital services

Interim Statement

Lifespan of pharmaceutical fridges for vaccine storage

October 2024

Effective Immediately

Health New Zealand | Te Whatu Ora (Health NZ) is reviewing the National Standards for Vaccine Storage and Transportation for Immunisation Providers 2017 (2nd edition) and the 2021 COVID-19 Vaccine Addendum.

Whilst this review progresses, Health NZ is releasing the following interim guidelines on the lifespan of pharmaceutical fridges used to store vaccines.

Pharmaceutical fridges 10 years or older used to store vaccines can be used, provided continuous real-time temperature monitoring services with out-of-hours alarming and notification processes are in place.¹

All providers are required to comply with the National Standards for Vaccine Storage and Transportation for Immunisation Providers 2017 (2nd edition) including and not limited to:

- Up to date policies and processes are in place to reflect the use of continuous temperature monitoring services
- Ongoing annual fridge service plans are in place
- Fridges are in good working condition based on the service reports
- The site has current Cold Chain Accreditation or Licence to Operate Pharmacy

Regional advisors and local coordinators can be contacted [here](#)

¹ For further guidance see the [National standards or vaccine storage and transportation for immunisation providers 2017 \(2nd Edition\) \(updated September 2019\)](#), section 7.2, clause 2b. Continuous monitoring services.