



Community Medicine Newsletter

BCCDC Vaccine Storage and Expiry Dates Guidelines

To avoid vaccine wastage, please follow the following BCCDC guideline when returning any remaining influenza vaccine (Vaxigrip and Fluviral) from the 2010/2011 flu season to Vancouver Coastal Health.

- **“First to expire, first out”**: rotate vaccine stock according to expiry date (placing vaccine with the shortest expiry date at the front of the shelf, and longest expiry date at the back) so that vaccine closer to the expiry date will be used first.
- **Check biological products inventory on the last working day of each month**: Check for expired products, and **remove expired products**. This is important in order to avoid the administration of expired product to a client.
- The expiry date is the date by which a vaccine or diluent should be used. **When the date is marked as a month and year, the vaccine or diluent may be used up to and including the LAST DAY OF THE MONTH**. Note: some component vaccines and diluents may be assembled into one package with a labeled expiry date on the outer carton. This date is the **shorter** of the two dates of either the component vaccine or the diluent in the package.
- **Clearly label** biological products that have had a cold chain incident, but are subsequently deemed to be usable. Develop a system to track vaccines exposed to a cold chain incident, including the temperature and the duration of the exposure. Once they are deemed **usable and marked** use these vaccines first.

If you require further information please contact the Biological clerk at 604-986-6784 or CD Nurse on call at 604-983-6700.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Brian O'Connor", with a checkmark at the end.

Brian A. O'Connor, MD, MHSc
Medical Health Officer
Vancouver Coastal Health, North Shore