

# Provincial Partner Oversight Team news

Spring 2025

## ! Important spring update

Alberta Health recommends offering a biannual dose of COVID-19 vaccine to all eligible residents of congregate care facilities beginning April 28, 2025.

## What you need to know about Cold Chain Excursion (CCE)

**What is it?** A CCE occurs when vaccine is exposed to light or temperatures outside the manufacturer's recommended temperature range.

**Why is it important?** A CCE can potentially reduce effectiveness of vaccine, leading to lower-than-expected protection from disease.

Administering potentially ineffective vaccine can cause loss of confidence in immunization programs.

**How to report and manage a CCE:** Refer to the [Cold Chain Algorithm](#) for the steps to report and manage a CCE. Depending on the situation, the affected vaccine might still be usable or need to be wasted.

Individuals may need to be re-immunized if an ineffective vaccine dose was administered.

**Vaccine storage and handling resources can be found at:** [Vaccine Storage & Handling | Alberta Health Services](#)

## i Reminders

- **All providers** who receive vaccine from Alberta Health **must report CCEs**. Refer to "Cold Chain Excursions" in [Alberta Vaccine Storage and Handling Policy for provincially funded vaccine](#) for details on how to complete this report.
- Follow all vaccine storage and handling requirements. These requirements must be met to receive provincially funded vaccine.

## Vaccine storage and handling tips

- Reviewing the [Vaccine Storage and Handling modules](#) is an annual requirement for all staff involved with your facility's immunization program.
- Know the Vaccine Storage and Handling processes [specific to COVID-19 vaccines](#).
- [Practice auditing your own facility](#).
- Check temperature monitoring devices and change batteries at least twice a year. Refer to the [Vaccine Refrigerator Maintenance Cleaning Log](#).

## Contact Us

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[Provincial Partner Oversight Team](#)  
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