

## SECTION 10 – PLANNING, EVALUATION & OFF SITE CLINICS

### Table of Contents

1.0	PLANNING IMMUNIZATION CLINICS .....	1
2.0	PLANNING SATELLITE CLINICS .....	2
3.0	EVALUATION OF IMMUNIZATION CLINICS.....	3
4.0	STORAGE AND HANDLING OF VACCINES DURING SATELLITE CLINICS ...	4
4.1	<i>MAINTAINING TEMPERATURE DURING OFF-SITE CLINICS.....</i>	<i>4</i>
5.0	SUMMER PACKING CONFIGURATIONS.....	5
6.0	WINTER PACKING CONFIGURATIONS .....	5
7.0	ICE PACKS .....	5
8.0	COMMERCIAL COOLANT PACKS.....	5
9.0	BASIC PRINCIPLES FOR PACKING VACCINES .....	6
10.0	REFERENCES .....	8

## 1.0 PLANNING IMMUNIZATION CLINICS

Well Child Clinics - for infants and children

Regular School Visits - for the school age children

Pre Arranged Appointments - for adults or for international or special vaccines

Mass Clinics - pre-planned clinics to immunize as many people as possible in a short period of time

Immunization Blitz - mass vaccination of a target group with a specific vaccine, usually done when there is threat of disease outbreak and community immunity is depressed

1. **ADVERTISE\*** Use posters at the school, the library, bus station, post office, band office, hotel, daycare centre, bank etc. Use your local newspaper, or school bulletin, or the rolling ads on the television. Put the word in the ear of a few key people in the community and tell them to spread the word.
2. When planning large clinics have a good idea of how many people you will be servicing. Complete an iPHIS audit to determine vaccine requirements.
3. Get some help. Volunteers can assist with set up, refreshments, and clean up once the clinic is complete.
4. Visit some of the facilities in your community and ask if you can leave posters or pamphlets about the immunizations that are available and where and when they can be obtained.
5. Remember - planning and organization is necessary whether your clinic is for 15 people or 1500 people.

## 2.0 PLANNING SATELLITE CLINICS

Mass Clinics - pre-planned clinics to immunize as many people as possible in a short period of time

Immunization Blitz - mass vaccination of a target group with a specific vaccine, usually done when there is threat of disease outbreak and community immunity is depressed

1. ADVERTISE\* Use posters at the school, the library, bus station, post office, band office, hotel, daycare centre, bank etc. Use your local newspaper, or school bulletin, or the rolling ads on TV. Put the word in the ear of a few key people in the community and tell them to spread the word.
2. Make arrangements with local target groups for you to come to them. Determine the location for the clinic. Find a contact person, send them a letter of your intentions, see if they are receptive to the offer of "curb service", pick a convenient time, and gather your supplies and go.
3. Equipment Requirements For Satellite Clinics:
  - needles and syringes
  - alcohol swabs
  - bandaids
  - gloves
  - anaphylactic kit
  - sharps containers
  - oxygen tank in carrying case (plus pediatric and adult mask)
  - immunization record or recording sheet ( only if computer not used)

For all satellite clinics there must be available communication (phone, cell phone, mobile radio, MDMRS radio etc) so in event of an anaphylactic reaction additional medical assistance can be obtained.

### **3.0 EVALUATION OF IMMUNIZATION CLINICS**

- the efficacy of the immunization program is measured by the use of statistics. Run an audit before and after the clinic to determine if you met your target goal. Review and update your Community Immunization Work Plan.
- you want to know what percentage of your community is immunized against disease
- if the clinic was not as successful as you planned determine why and make changes for the next clinic

Immunization clinics are a great media for other health education issues. You may be asked for information about hypertension, how to stop smoking, dieting etc. Keep your explanations brief and try to encourage further discussion in the clinic at a later date

#### **4.0 STORAGE AND HANDLING OF VACCINES DURING SATELLITE CLINICS**

To maintain the stability of vaccines it is imperative to minimize the number of times vaccines are handled and transported during satellite clinics.

When transporting vaccines using a vehicle, **NEVER** place the vaccine cooler inside the trunk of the vehicle. The temperature inside the trunk cannot be regulated. Avoid placing the vaccine in direct sunlight, or directly in line with air from the vehicle's heater and air conditioner. When traveling long distances and rest breaks occur, the vaccine cooler must be transported inside.

Those diluents that can be stored at room temperature may be transported either at room temperature or inside the same insulated cooled container as its corresponding vaccine. If transported inside coolers with vaccine, diluent must not be in direct contact with refrigerated/frozen packs and **must** be refrigerated at least 24 hours in advance so as to not raise the temperature of the cooler and the refrigerated vaccines.

##### **4.1 MAINTAINING TEMPERATURE DURING OFF-SITE CLINICS**

Vaccine must be maintained between +2°C and +8°C during an off-site clinic and should be stored in an insulated container. Pack enough refrigerated or frozen packs to maintain the cold chain. The number and placement of refrigerated or frozen packs inside the container will depend on container size, the ambient temperature, the volume of vaccine and jurisdictional variations. The combination of insulated container and packing material should be qualified to take into account these variables in order to maintain vaccines between +2°C and +8°C, during an off-site clinic. eg: Whitehorse Health Center off-site vaccine volume

Keep the container closed as much as possible. A VWR Big Digit thermometer must be kept in the container with the vaccines, and temperatures checked and recorded periodically to ensure that the cold chain is not broken.

Record temperatures before leaving the facility, periodically during the clinic and upon return to the office, as per jurisdictional recommendations.

## **5.0 SUMMER PACKING CONFIGURATIONS**

Summer configurations might include insulated material on the bottom of the insulated container, ice packs (preconditioned according to manufacturer's recommendations), gel packs preconditioned to +5°C, insulating barrier, temperature-monitoring device and vaccine, insulating barrier, gel pack preconditioned to +5°C, ice pack (preconditioned according to manufacturer's recommendations), insulating material on top, and frozen ice packs on top with an insulated cover.

## **6.0 WINTER PACKING CONFIGURATIONS**

A winter configuration may include the same materials as the summer configuration, except top packs are not frozen but refrigerated packs, preconditioned to +5°C. In extreme conditions, frozen ice packs may not be used at all.

## **7.0 ICE PACKS**

An ice pack is a flat rectangular plastic container designed to be 7/8 filled with water, frozen, and then used to keep vaccines at the recommended temperatures. Ice packs may have a removable lid for filling or be pre-filled and sealed. Ice packs that are filled with tap water and frozen are the safest type for maintaining the recommended vaccine storage temperature of +2°C to +8°C inside a cold box

## **8.0 COMMERCIAL COOLANT PACKS**

There are many different types of gel packs that contain coolants that depress the melting point and ensure the coolant remains cooler than 0°C for longer than water-filled ice packs<sup>(2)</sup>.

Caution: There are coolant packs that have freezing points below 0°C and may present a risk of freezing vaccines unless they are properly conditioned before use in the cooler.

Before purchasing coolant products, request the following information from the manufacturer:

- Validation of their claim about the product's cold life

- Clear instructions on how to freeze and condition the product before use, and how to use them to pack vaccines

Note: Insulating and filler material should not be stored in the same refrigerator as vaccines (whenever possible), since placing room temperature items in the refrigerator may affect the fridge's operating temperature and take up too much space.

## 9.0 BASIC PRINCIPLES FOR PACKING VACCINES

(Refer to pictures on page 6 & 7 for packaging guidelines)

1. Vaccines should be packed in layers using the following materials: refrigerated and frozen packs, insulating barrier, temperature monitors (see pages 6 and 7) e.g. bubble wrap, crumpled brown packing paper, styrofoam peanuts), vaccine, , and filler mate. The number and placement of refrigerated or frozen packs inside the container will depend on container size, outside temperature, and jurisdictional variations in storage and handling materials.
2. Pack vaccines in their original packaging. Do not remove vaccine vials from boxes.
3. The temperature-monitoring device should be placed in the middle of the vaccines and wrapped or inserted in a pre-conditioned cryopack envelope or blanket



Components for packaging vaccines for satellite clinics



2 gel packs pre-conditioned @ +2 to +8° Celsius, placed at bottom of cooler



Vaccines (with Cold and activated Warm mark) inserted in pre-conditioned cryopack envelope **OR** wrapped in pre-conditioned cryopack blanket @ +2 to +8° Celcius.



Rigid Styrofoam® placed on top of vaccine blanket or envelope containing the vaccines



2 frozen (flat) gelpacks placed on top of the rigid Styrofoam®



## 10.0 REFERENCES

Bishara RH. Qualification versus validation and good cold chain management practices. *Pharmaceutical Manufacturing and Packing Sourcer* 2005: 102, 104, 106.

Kempe A. Bulk storage and transport of vaccines including outreach clinics. In: Langley A, Grant S, eds. *Proceedings of the National Vaccine Storage Workshop*. 1st ed. Brisbane: Queensland Health, 2004: 67-86