

1. Selecting a site location

Consider the following requirements when selecting a site location for your curbside or drive-through flu clinic.

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| Clinic Flow | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Proximity to regular clinic (closer is preferred) Space for traffic flow into/out of location Ability to accommodate weather: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Shelter for the immunization team Easy access to refrigerators/insulated containers for vaccine storage |
| Utilities | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Adequate lighting Internet access Power outlets (for portable vaccine refrigerators, etc.) |

2. Setting up the clinic

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| Flow and layout | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reserve multiple parking spaces (for monitoring after vaccination) Designate and set up spaces for staff: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Vaccine preparation area Area for evaluation/treatment of patients with adverse events or other medical needs Secure area for staff to leave personal items Area for administrative work and documentation. Put up signage: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Screening signage at entrance Signs, banners, and floor markers to guide traffic Signs advising patients not to exit their vehicle unless instructed to do so by clinic staff or in the case of an emergency | |
| Data management | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop a data collection and management strategy based on site capability (manual processes must be planned for temporary sites lacking specific infrastructure). Consider: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Access to vaccination history (if applicable) Reporting to EMR Reporting to patient's primary care provider | |
| Supplies | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rolling carts Alcohol-based hand sanitizer (at least 70% alcohol) Hand soap Cleaning supplies PPE for staff (masks, eye protection, gloves) Masks for patients who come without Thermometers (if performing temperature checks at screening station) Tissues Adhesive bandages for injection site Screening and documentation forms Vaccines and diluents (if needed) Prep pads Sterile alcohol wipes (individually packaged) Syringes Needles (varying lengths appropriate for the expected patient population) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sharps containers (closable, puncture-resistant, and leakproof) Emergency medical kit with epinephrine with signed medical orders First aid kit Disposable table covers that can be changed if soiled Technology (if using): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Computers / tablets Printers 2D barcode readers Internet access or hotspots Outlet strips (multi-plug) and extension cords Office supplies (including pens, printer paper, etc.) Wastebaskets Weights to keep wastebaskets, garbage bags, and empty sharps containers from blowing away. |

3. Operating the clinic

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| Scheduling and booking appointments | <p>Stagger appointment times to allow for the immunization encounter and post-vaccination observation</p> <p>Screen patients over the phone to ensure they are suitable candidates for the drive-through clinic. Those NOT suitable include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Patients with previous history of anaphylaxis or allergy to influenza vaccination and, • Patients with an unknown history of anaphylaxis (receiving the influenza vaccine for the first time) <p>Provide patients with pre-visit instructions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Do not arrive in advance of appointment (to prevent traffic congestion) Bring an eligible member of their household to drive them home Review criteria for shortened post-vaccination observation period (provide criteria) Wear loose-fitting clothes to allow easy access and expose entire upper arm (or leg for infants) Remain seated in car so health care worker can access arm through window or door (parents may hold children on their laps) |
| Staffing | <p>Schedule extra clinic staff and volunteers for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monitoring traffic flow and waiting areas Screening Registration and consent processes Cleaning |
| Cleaning | <p>Clean surfaces and equipment (including the rolling carts) between patients, and at the beginning and end of every shift. Follow COVID-19 environmental cleaning protocols for clinic settings (BCCDC, 2020)</p> |
| Screening | <p>Implement passive screening procedures at entry with signage</p> <p>Implement active screening procedures at entry. See Ontario COVID-19 Screening Document for checklist. (MOH, June 11, 2020)</p> <p>Divert screen-positive patients to seek testing at an assessment centre or emergency room as appropriate:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ask the patient to perform hand hygiene Provide the patient with a medical mask Make efforts to ensure the patient has a method of travel that maintains physical distancing |

4. Maintaining the cold chain

Adapted from Vaccine Storage and Handling Guidelines ([Government of Ontario, 2018](#))

The “cold chain” includes all materials, equipment and procedures used to maintain vaccines in the required temperature range of +2°C to +8°C from the time of manufacture until the vaccines are administered to individuals. Most vaccines are considered to be damaged at 0°C. The loss of vaccine effectiveness due to exposures to adverse conditions is cumulative, permanent and irreversible.

Setup

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| Staff | <p>Designate one person as the lead to monitor vaccine storage and handling practices.</p> <p>Designate one person as back-up to monitor vaccine storage and handling practices.</p> <p>Ensure designated staff understand rationale for correct vaccine storage and handling.</p> |
| Equipment | <p>Temperature Log Book to track:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Day Time of each temperature check Current temperature Maximum temperature Minimum temperature Name of staff member performing temperature check |

4. Maintaining the cold chain (continued)

Setup

Equipment

Refrigerator:
 Purpose-built refrigerators are recommended for storing large inventories of vaccines. They ensure maintenance of +2°C to +8°C internal temperature; ongoing air circulation ensures; evaporator to prevent vaccine from freezing; temperature recovery system.
 Domestic or bar refrigerators are not recommended for vaccine storage. It is complicated to manage their temperatures, which makes them unsuitable for vaccine storage unless excellent vaccine storage and handling practices are followed.
 If using a domestic/bar fridge: contact your public health unit for assistance on required modifications prior to vaccine storage in order to ensure that vaccines will be safely stored.
 Temperature monitoring device for each vaccine refrigerator and insulated container.
 Insulated containers for temporary storage in case of power outage.

Refrigerator setup

Stabilize the temperature of the vaccine refrigerator before stocking vaccine.
 Place the maximum-minimum thermometer probe on the middle refrigerator shelf inside an empty vaccine box.
 Place the refrigerator out of direct sunlight.
 Mark the plug clearly so the refrigerator is not unplugged or turned off accidentally.
 Keep icepacks/gel packs in your freezer

Receiving and returning vaccines

When you receive your order, check that you received your full order and ensure that the order matches the packing slip.
 Place vaccines in the refrigerator immediately.
 Store vaccines in their original packaging.
 DO NOT store vaccines in the door of the refrigerator.
 If you did not receive everything you ordered, or your order does not match the packing slip, notify your vaccine supply source (i.e., public health units or OGPMS) immediately.
 Always return expired or spoiled vaccine to your vaccine supply source for disposal. The Ministry may be reimbursed by manufacturers for returned vaccines.

Cold chain management

Daily tasks

Ensure your refrigerator is in good working order.
 Aim to maintain vaccine refrigerator temperature at +5°C, as this gives a greater leeway for protection from temperature fluctuation.
 Keep your refrigerator door openings to a minimum.
 Check temperatures. Temperature monitoring and recording devices do not guarantee safety of vaccines and are not to be considered a substitute for the manual recording of minimum, maximum and current temperatures twice daily.
 If using refrigerators, check and record the maximum, minimum and current temperatures twice daily in the Temperature Log Book at the beginning and end of each day.
 If using insulated containers as temporary storage, see "Management of insulated containers" below for temperature check schedule.
 Reset maximum-minimum thermometer after recording the temperature readings.
 When using a data logger, the minimum, maximum and current temperatures still need to be recorded manually as a timely alert to any breach in the cold chain.
 Do not store food, beverages or medical/laboratory specimens in the vaccine refrigerator.
 Fill the lower drawers and the door with water bottles.
 Do not overstock your refrigerator with vaccines.
 Rotate stock so vaccines with the shortest expiry date are used first.
 If vaccines have been exposed to temperatures below +2°C or above +8°C, contact your public health unit immediately.

Cold chain management (continued)

Power outage

Always have an alternative means of vaccine storage available.
 In the Temperature Log Book, document the time and the maximum, minimum and current temperature inside of the non-functioning refrigerator.
 Do not allow the vaccine to remain in a non-functioning unit for an extended period of time.
 Record the time and refrigerator temperature when the electricity supply is restored, and again when the thermometer reading is within +2°C to +8°C.
 Call your public health unit immediately to report any exposures to temperatures below +2°C and/or above +8°C.
 Segregate the exposed vaccines in the refrigerator by placing these vaccines in a labelled container (or bag), marked with the date and time and "DO NOT USE."
 Never use or discard the vaccine until your public health unit has assessed the situation.

Temporary storage: insulated containers

Properly packed insulated containers (coolers) can maintain the required temperature for 3-4 hours, subject to environmental and physical conditions. Use insulated containers for:

- Transporting vaccine
- Temporary storage of vaccine (during clinics or when cleaning the refrigerator)
- Emergency storage (power outage)

Management of insulated containners

Experiment to find the correct combination of icepack(s) and/or gel pack(s) to ensure each insulated container is able to maintain the required temperatures. See below for instructions on how to properly pack an insulated container.
 Do not place insulated containers with vaccines in the trunk of a car.
 Visually inspect the temperature every time the insulated container is opened.
 Record temperature in the insulated container:

- Before leaving office
- After 1 hour of travel
- Upon arrival at clinic
- Every hour during the session
- Upon completion of the session at the clinic
- Upon arrival back to office

Packing insulated containers

- Ice/gel packs must be correctly conditioned before use. See Preparation instructions below. The risk of freezing vaccines increases if the icepacks/gel packs are not correctly conditioned.
- Incorrect use of gel packs is riskier than icepacks because gel packs remain colder than 0°C for longer.
- Freezing episodes happen very easily in all coolers, usually in the first 2 hours after packing.

| Item | Preparation | Use Instructions |
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| Insulated hard sided container | Pre-chill insulated container until a temperature between +2°C to +8°C is reached prior to placing vaccines into the container. Use frozen gel packs or place the container in a refrigerator. | Check container for damage. Ensure container can close fully and maintain its seal. |
| Vaccine and temperature monitoring device | Check the accuracy of devices once annually and change the battery every 6 months. | Position maximum-minimum thermometer sensor inside vaccine box. |

| Packing insulated containers (continue) | | |
|---|--|---|
| Item | Preparation | Use Instructions |
| Inner flexible ice blanket | Condition in refrigerator at +2°C to +8°C | Wrap inner flexible ice blanket around vaccines. |
| Gel packs | Condition gel packs in freezer to appropriate temperature for season: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Winter transport: +2°C to +8°C. • Summer transport: -10°C to -20°C. | Place gel packs on top of outer flexible ice blanket. Additional icepacks may be required depending on cold-life needed for the length of transport. |
| Outer flexible ice blanket | Condition in refrigerator at +2°C to +8°C | Wrap outer flexible ice blanket around vaccines and inner flexible ice blanket. |
| Additional insulating material | N/A | Bubble wrap, Styrofoam chips, crumpled or shredded newspaper should be placed inside (bottom, top and sides) the insulated container to allow for cool air circulation. |

Curbside or Drive-through Clinic Checklist is adapted from: [Guidance on seasonal influenza and antiviral drug use in Canada for the 2020-2021 influenza season in the context of COVID-19 \(NCCID, Sept 2020\)](#); [Guidance on the use of influenza vaccine in the presence of COVID-19 \(NACI, Sept 29, 2020\)](#); [Guidance for influenza vaccine delivery in the presence of COVID-19 \(NACI, August 5, 2020\)](#); [Considerations for Planning Curbside/Drive-Through Vaccination Clinics \(CDC, July 27, 2020\)](#)



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Reprinted with Permission from the Centre for Effective Practice. (Oct 2020). Curbside or Drive-through Clinic Checklist: Ontario. Toronto: Centre for Effective Practice.

Developed by:



Centre for Effective Practice

With input and support from:



This resource was developed with input from and support by Ontario College of Family Physicians (OCFP), Association of Family Health Teams of Ontario (AFHTO), Ontario Medical Association (OMA) and OMA SGFP, Nurse Practitioners' Association of Ontario (NPAO) and Registered Nurses' Association of Ontario (RNAO).

It has been reviewed and endorsed by the Provincial Primary Care Advisory Table (PPCAT) established by the Ministry of Health.