

<p>IN THIS ISSUE:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Vaccine Storage and Handling Practices ▪ Monthly Temperature Log Submission Requirements for Long Term Care and Retirement Homes ▪ Universal Influenza Immunization Program (UIIP) 	<p>FROM: Daniela Kempkens, MD, MPH, FRCPC Associate Medical Officer of Health</p>
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<p>Key Messages:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ All facilities storing publicly funded vaccines must adhere to the vaccine storage and handling guidelines. Long term care and retirement homes will be required to submit monthly refrigerator temperature logs commencing on September 12, 2023. ▪ Retirement homes who plan to store and administer influenza vaccine to their residents for the 2023/2024 season are required to apply through the Ministry of Health Universal Influenza Immunization Program.

The temperature logbook is the written record that enables you and your staff to monitor and take action if the temperatures go outside of the required range. The temperature should be viewed every time the refrigerator is opened. This will allow for troubleshooting if required.

Accurately documented temperatures assist Peel Public Health Nurses in the assessment of vaccines exposed to cold chain exposures.

Monthly Temperature Log Submission Requirements for Long Term Care and Retirement Homes

Many Ontario public health units require healthcare facilities storing publicly funded vaccines to submit refrigerator temperature with every vaccine order. This is to ensure vaccines are stored at the required temperatures and to support troubleshooting if refrigerated temperatures are unstable.

Long Term Care Homes and Retirement Homes do not generally order publicly funded vaccines frequently, therefore, there may be several months between vaccine orders.

Peel Public Health is taking a pro-active approach to the safe storage and handling of publicly funded vaccines stored in our community partners' refrigerators.

Effective **September 12, 2023**, all long term care and retirement homes that store or wish to store publicly funded vaccines will be required to submit monthly temperature logs.

Vaccine Storage and Handling Practices

Maintaining accurate and up to date documentation of refrigerator temperatures is necessary to maintain vaccine potency and viability.

Maximum, minimum, and current temperatures must be checked twice daily and documented (at the beginning and end of each day) in the temperature logbook provided by Peel Public Health. This will ensure that vaccines have been stored at the right temperature, and have not been exposed to temperatures below +2.0°C and/or above 8.0°C.

All facilities storing publicly funded vaccines are required to monitor and document twice daily temperatures: https://www.health.gov.on.ca/en/pro/programs/publichealth/oph_standards/docs/reference/vaccine%20storage_handling_guidelines_en.pdf.

Facilities will receive an email confirming their submission date and temperature log range requirements prior to September 12, 2023.

Temperature log submissions are to be emailed to Uiiptemplog@peelregion.ca no later than 1:00 pm on the scheduled day. The format of temperature log can be a scanned copy or photograph.

The schedule for 2023 is as follows:

Schedule for 2023 UIIP Temperature Log Submissions	
DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION:	TEMPERATURE LOGS REQUIRED:
<i>Send by 1:00 PM (morning temperatures must be documented)</i>	<i>Send temperature logs for the period indicated below</i>
September 12, 2023	August 15 to September 12, 2023
October 10, 2023	September 12 to October 10, 2023
November 7, 2023	October 10 to November 7, 2023
December 5, 2023	November 7 to December 5, 2023

Long Term Care Homes and Retirement Homes are required to submit temperature logs by email to:
uiiptemplog@peelregion.ca.

In the subject line of the email, please include your RMP_MS 5 digit code and the name of your home:
RMP_MS_XXXXX – Name of LTCH/RH.

Reminders:

- Submitting temperature logs **does not** replace the requirement to report cold chain failures when they occur.

- Report cold chain failures to Peel Public Health as soon as you notice them by calling 905-791-7800 ext. 2840 or emailing vaccine management at cdc1phn@peelregion.ca.
- You will receive a schedule for the 2024 temperature log submission dates in December 2023.

Universal Influenza Immunization Program (UIIP)

Retirement homes are required to submit a UIIP application to the MOH if the facility plans to store and administer influenza and COVID-19 vaccines for the 2023/2024 season.

Although the posted application deadline has now passed; retirement homes are still able to submit an application by emailing UIIP.MOH@ontario.ca. Please do this as soon as possible. This must be completed before the end of August 2023 to be able to schedule an in-person site inspection by Peel Public Health. The in-person inspection with a PASS rating is a requirement before facilities can store publicly funded vaccines.