DATE: August 24, 2011

TO: ALL NCIP VACCINE PROVIDERS

FAX: BLAST FAX

RE: HURRICANE IRENE

SENDER: NC IMMUNIZATION BRANCH

To ensure your facility is ready for the approaching Hurricane Irene, please take a moment to review your storage and handling practices:

1) Make sure you fill the extra spaces in your refrigerator with water jugs and line the bottom and sides of your freezer with ice packs.

2) Ensure a working thermometer is in the refrigerator and the freezer.

3) Log the time, date, and current temperature of the freezer and refrigerator before you leave for the day.

4) Review your disaster recovery plan with staff; update if necessary.

5) If you have a power outage, do not assume vaccine is not viable – record the date, time and temperature when you return to the clinic and call us so that we can work with you to determine if the vaccine is still viable.

5a) Once the temperature reaches 8°C or warmer in the refrigerator, or -15°C or warmer in the freezer, begin your disaster recovery procedures.

- 5b) Move the vaccine to a properly working unit with regularly recorded in range temperatures.
- 5c) Do not discard vaccine and do not administer affected vaccines until you have discussed the viability of the vaccine with the Immunization Branch.


If you need help getting ready call the Customer Service staff at 1-877-873-6247.