



A temperature excursion occurs when any temperature reading is outside the recommended range for vaccine as defined in the manufacturer’s package insert. Vaccines must always be stored properly, even if viability is questionable. Vaccines that are received warm, damaged, or in an otherwise questionable state require immediate attention.

**Listed below are examples of questionable (potentially non-viable vaccines):**

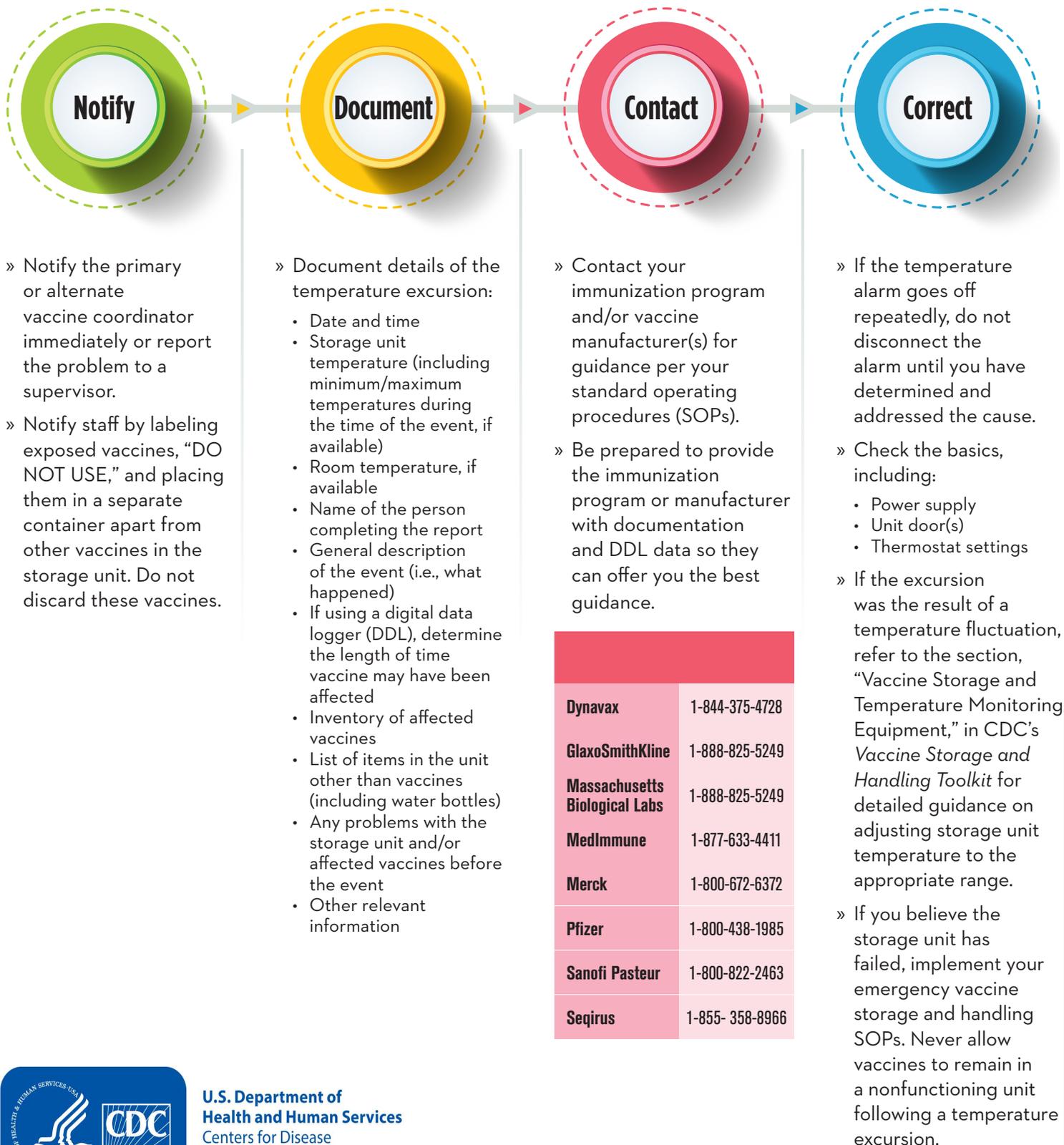
- Vaccine shipment received with temperature indicator strip showing out of range.
- Vaccine is warm to touch.
- Ice/gel packs are melted.
- Ice/gel packs are missing.
- Vaccine is received damaged.

If vaccine viability is questionable upon receipt, the facility/site must **immediately** do the following steps:

	<b>Moderna COVID-19 Vaccine</b>	<b>Pfizer COVID-19 Vaccine</b>
<b>1</b>	Place the probe of a data logger in the questionable shipment, near the vaccine and replace the lid to gain the current temperature. Temperatures must be checked frequently to see when the temperature stabilizes.	Place the probe of a data logger in the questionable shipment, near the vaccine and replace the lid to gain the current temperature. Temperatures must be checked frequently to see when the temperature stabilizes.
<b>2</b>	Separate the questionable vaccine in a vaccine quarantine bag and place the questionable vaccines in the freezer, until viability can be determined. Do not write on the vaccine itself.	Separate the questionable vaccine until viability can be determined. Do not write on the vaccine itself.
<b>3</b>	Contact McKesson at <a href="tel:1-833-343-2703">1-833-343-2703</a> to report the Moderna vaccine temperature excursion.	Contact Pfizer at <a href="tel:1-800-438-1985">1-800-438-1985</a> to report the vaccine temperature excursion.
<b>4</b>	McKesson will initiate a process for sending a replacement order for the vaccine.	Pfizer will initiate a process for sending a replacement order for the vaccine.
<b>5</b>	Inform DSHS of the vaccine temperature excursion at 877-835-7750 or <a href="mailto:COVID19VacEnroll@dshs.texas.gov">COVID19VacEnroll@dshs.texas.gov</a>	Inform DSHS of the vaccine temperature excursion at 877-835-7750 or <a href="mailto:COVID19VacEnroll@dshs.texas.gov">COVID19VacEnroll@dshs.texas.gov</a>

# Handling a Temperature Excursion in Your Vaccine Storage Unit

Any temperature reading outside ranges recommended in the manufacturers' package inserts is considered a temperature excursion. Identify temperature excursions quickly and take immediate action to correct them. This can prevent vaccine waste and the potential need to revaccinate patients.



**U.S. Department of Health and Human Services**  
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention