



Media Advisory  
Immediate Release

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### **ISBER Releases Position Statement for Management and Use of Ultra Low Temperature Freezers**

Vancouver—January 12, 2021—The International Society for the Biological and Environmental Repositories (ISBER), which represents professional experts in biobanking, ultra-low temperature (ULT) storage and cold chain management, has released its position statement listing key practices health agencies should consider to support the COVID-19 vaccine distribution with dedicated ULT freezers. The document, titled “Ultra Low Temperature Freezers: Key Considerations,” (<https://www.isber.org/page/ultfreezer>) provides evidence based guidance for those responsible for distribution, storage, and management of the vaccine, to resources that detail the fundamentals of safe and efficient ULT freezer management, shipping and distribution.

“The global biobanking community has consolidated our knowledge and expertise into a brief one page resource. We aim to minimize the learning curve and to help people and health agencies new to ultra-low temperature storage avoid common pitfalls,” said Piper Mullins, President-Elect of ISBER.

The document draws on accepted practices known to ensure robust ULT product storage and distribution that are routinely used by biorepositories. The document represents a consensus view from the biobanking community. The organization drew on the expertise of biorepository managers and industry vendors with further reference from the *ISBER Best Practices, Fourth Edition*. The statement intends to supplement guidance from national and local health agencies on managing the cold chain deployment of frozen COVID-19 vaccines.

“We want ISBER to be the go-to resource for the growing number of people who are just learning about ultra-low storage and handling during this fraught time,” said Associate Professor Daniel Catchpoole, President of ISBER. “As a scientific community who are experts in cold chain logistics of biological specimens, it is vital that our national health agencies draw on the expertise ISBER provides to guide the proper management of freezers for the distribution of biological therapeutics.”

To learn more about the association please visit [www.isber.org](http://www.isber.org).

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## About the International Society for Biological and Environmental Repositories

ISBER ([www.isber.org](http://www.isber.org)) is the only global forum that addresses harmonization of scientific, technical, legal, and ethical issues relevant to repositories of biological and environmental specimens. ISBER fosters collaboration; creates education and training opportunities; provides a forum for the dissemination of state-of-the-art policies, processes, and research findings; and provides an international showcase for innovative technologies, products, and services. Together, these activities promote best practices that cut across the broad range of repositories that ISBER serves.

## About the ISBER Best Practices

The *ISBER Best Practices: Recommendations for Repositories Fourth Edition* presents the most effective practices for the management of biological and environmental specimen collections and repositories. These are either evidence-based or consensus-based practices for collection, long-term storage, retrieval and distribution of specimens. Development of best practices is a rigorous, consensus-based process that reflects advances in research and technology. To access, please visit:

<https://www.isber.org/page/BPR>.



**ISBER IS PLEASED TO PRESENT  
ITS RESOURCES FOR ULTRA LOW  
TEMPERATURE FREEZER INSTALLATION,  
MANAGEMENT, AND USE**

In this brief resource, we distill the *ISBER Best Practices* into key considerations for new users of frozen SARS-COV-2 vaccines

The banner features the ISBER logo on the left, which includes a globe icon above the text 'isber'. Below the logo is a horizontal sequence of six circular icons connected by a line. From left to right, the icons are: a globe with a person and a speech bubble; a refrigerator; a snowflake and a thermometer; a lightning bolt and a water drop; a person with a question mark; and a large padlock with a snowflake inside.

