

Vaccines for Children (VFC) Provider Notice



pennsylvania

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

Bureau of Communicable Diseases, Division of Immunizations

November 2017



Digital Data Loggers for Jan. 1, 2018

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) require all VFC providers to have digital data loggers (DDL) by Jan. 1, 2018. Data loggers vary based on complexity of function and price.

Basic DDL: low cost, easy setup; \$80 - \$200	Multiple Sensor DDLs: used for both refrigerator and freezer if close to each other; \$250-\$400	Continuous temperature monitoring systems (CTMS): good for larger organizations; \$500-\$2,000
Continuous temperature monitoring	Continuous temperature monitoring	Continuous temperature monitoring
Current, min. and max. display	Current, min and max display	Current, min. and max. display
Visual and/or audible alarm	Visual and/or audible alarm	Visual and/or audible alarm
Low battery indicator	Low battery indicator	Low battery indicator
Monitors one unit	Monitors up to 2 units	Monitors multiple units, usually via Wi-Fi
NA	NA	Wi-Fi
Data stored on DDL, flash drive, computer, SD card	May use Cloud	Uses Cloud
Data stored on DDL, flash drive, computer, SD card	Data stored on DDL, flash drive, computer, SD card, or to Cloud	Data stored to Cloud
Out-of-range temperatures displayed on unit	Out-of-range temperatures displayed on unit	Out-of-range temperatures displayed on unit and/or available via text, email, phone

Enrolled provider facilities must screen and document VFC program eligibility for VFC at every visit. VFC eligibility screening and documentation of eligibility status must take place at each immunization visit to ensure the child's eligibility status has not changed. Documentation must occur utilizing either a hard-copy or electronic form for the purpose of capturing and retaining the child's VFC eligibility. All reporting elements contained within the VFC Patient Eligibility Screening Form must be captured and retained for every visit within a similar paper or electronic form (Section 6C - Insurance and VFC Eligibility).

Ordering Vaccines

- All providers are advised to order monthly (between the first and 15th). To expedite orders, ensure that all shipments are indicated as accepted and inventory has been reconciled.
- Always reconcile inventory before each order is placed. Inventory on hand should match what is in your refrigerator and freezer. Contact VFC personnel for assistance at 1-888-646-6864 or to request a training aid.
- To accept shipments correctly in PA-SIIS, you must enter the total volume received and be sure it matches total volume shipped. Then select yes, so it populates into your inventory. Contact VFC personnel for assistance at 1-888-646-6864 or to request training aid.

Temperature Excursions

If vaccine temperatures are out of recommended ranges for less than 30 minutes during temperature logging, take immediate action to correct the problem and document the action taken on Step 3 of the temperature log or attach an explanation of action taken. For temperatures that are determined to be out of range for more than 30 minutes, mark the vaccine “do not use,” store appropriately and notify the vaccine manufacturer immediately.

You must also complete and submit the Vaccine Incident Report and Worksheet (Section 6-F) to Pa. Department of Health (DOH) within five days of incident. Fax: 717-214-7223



Question of the Month: If the main data logger was sent for recalibration and the back-up is currently being used, is the provider required to have another spare data logger?

Answer: Yes. Per the 2017 CDC VFC Operations Guide, “VFC Providers must have at least one backup thermometer with a valid and current Certificate of Calibration readily available to ensure that temperature assessment and recordings can be performed.”

2018 Re-enrollment

Mandatory annual VFC Re-enrollment for all providers will take place beginning January 2, 2018. For those providers with internet access, the process can be completed online through the SIIS website <https://siis.health.state.pa.us/siis/index.asp>. Facilities without internet access can update the PA VFC Provider Agreement form and fax it.

The PA-SIIS online registry or the PA VFC Provider Agreement form must also be updated annually if any of the following change:

- 1) Facility’s shipping or mailing address or contact email addresses;
- 2) Hours of operation;
- 3) VFC primary or backup contact person;
- 4) Number of children served; and
- 5) Type of the facility (i.e., proper documentation must be forwarded to the PADOH before a change in status is made); or if a provider is added or deleted from the practice.

Contact our customer service staff at 888-646-6864 or your immunizations nurse consultant concerning changed facility information.

Please make sure to add RA-pavfc@pa.gov to your safe senders list to stay on top of the latest information being sent by the Pennsylvania VFC Program.

