



State of California—Health and Human Services Agency  
California Department of Public Health




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TO: Vaccines for Children (VFC) Providers

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SUBJECT: New Temperature Monitoring Resources for 2016

## BACKGROUND

Vaccines must be stored within specific temperature ranges. To help providers more accurately monitor and document the temperatures in their vaccine storage units, the California VFC Program is launching a suite of new temperature monitoring resources for VFC providers. These include:

- a new online lesson, 'Monitoring Storage Unit Temperatures,' required for 2016 recertification;
- a new online temperature excursion reporting system, 'SHOTS' (Storage and Handling Online Triage System); and
- revised and simplified temperature logs and temperature log action guides.

Review all new resources with all staff monitoring temperatures before implementing them.

## NEW MONITORING STORAGE UNIT TEMPERATURES LESSON

The new 'Monitoring Storage Unit Temperatures' is a required lesson for key immunization staff. It will be launched in early January 2016. The new lesson features 11 interactive activities and takes about 30 minutes to complete. It replaces the two video demonstrations providers were required to watch for 2015 recertification. All other personnel working with immunizations are strongly encouraged to take the interactive lesson, although it is not required. Additional details about the new lesson will be sent separately.

## **NEW 'SHOTS' DOCUMENTATION AND REPORTING SYSTEM**

The California VFC Program will launch a new online temperature excursion reporting system in January 2016. The 'Storage and Handling Online Triage System' (SHOTS) is a web-based system for California VFC providers. The SHOTS system can be accessed through the provider's account at [MyVFCvaccines.org](http://MyVFCvaccines.org).

If vaccine storage unit temperatures get too warm or too cold for vaccines, providers will document the excursions on SHOTS, rather than documenting temperature excursions on paper. SHOTS will keep track of the reported excursions and provide instructions on whether to:

- continue to use vaccines,
- contact vaccine manufacturers for further guidance, and/or
- return vaccines.

SHOTS will also provide specific recommendations and best practices for vaccine storage and handling to help prevent future excursions from occurring.

## **2016 VFC REFRIGERATOR AND FREEZER TEMPERATURE LOGS**

The revised refrigerator and freezer logs are available in both Fahrenheit and Celsius. Providers should begin using the new temperature logs on January 1, 2016. Please recycle unused versions of older temperature logs.

Changes for the new year include:

- a new column to document whether the alarm is triggered;
- revised actions for too-warm temperatures--no more 1 hour wait; and
- no more documentation page because providers will report temperature excursions online.

The temperature logs still contain these popular features:

- Temperature logs display Days 1-15 and 16-31.
- Temperature ranges are displayed in color and include step-by-step actions to take in the event of too warm and too cold temperatures.
- A quality assurance component for the practice's on-site supervisor to verify that the temperatures were recorded correctly, and that any out-of-range temperatures were identified and corrective action was taken.
- A section to document names and initials of staff who monitor and record temperatures.

Temperature logs are available to download from [www.EZIZ.org](http://www.EZIZ.org). The VFC Program also has printed temperature logs, in tear-off pad form, available for ordering at the [VFC Materials Store](#).

## **2016 HOW TO RECORD REFRIGERATOR AND FREEZER TEMPERATURE LOGS GUIDES**

These popular one-page guides, available in Fahrenheit and Celsius, outline steps to record temperatures in vaccine storage units. The updated guides include more detailed instructions for a.m. and p.m. documentation, and new information about alarm settings. Review them with all staff monitoring temperatures before implementing the new temperature logs. Post a guide near each storage unit.

### **DATA LOGGER SETUP AND USE**

A new job aid is available to guide you on the steps needed to set up and use your data logger. This two-page guide covers how to prepare your data logger for use, familiarize yourself with its functions, configure its settings, monitor storage unit temperatures, and what actions to take if an alarm has been triggered. Ensure that staff monitoring vaccine storage unit temperatures are familiar with your data logger's functions and are competent in using this device.

### **QUESTIONS?**

If you have any questions, please call your VFC Field Representative or the VFC Customer Service Center at 877-243-8832 (877-2GET-VFC) or visit [www.EZIZ.org](http://www.EZIZ.org)

### **Resource Links**

- [New Temperature Logs for 2016 flier IMM-1151 \(12/15\)](#)
- [How to Record Refrigerator and Freezer Temperatures Job Aid F IMM-1029 \(12/15\)](#)
- [How to Record Refrigerator and Freezer Temperatures Job Aid C IMM-1029C \(12/15\)](#)
- [Data Logger Setup & Use Job Aid IMM-1206 \(12/15\)](#)

#### Refrigerators

- [Refrigerator Temperature Log F IMM-1125 \(12/15\)](#)
- [Refrigerator Temperature Log C IMM-1127 \(12/15\)](#)

#### Freezers

- [Freezer Temperature Log F IMM-1126 \(12/15\)](#)
- [Freezer Temperature Log C IMM-1128 \(12/15\)](#)