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**TO:** Vaccines for Children (VFC) Providers

**FROM:** Maria Volk, M.P.A., Acting Chief *Maria E. Volk*  
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**SUBJECT:** **Temperature Monitoring Requirements and New Resources**

## BACKGROUND

A number of new federal VFC Program participation requirements went into effect January 1, 2013. These participation requirements, outlined in the program's 2013 VFC Program Provider Agreement, and also described in the [June 14, 2013, new \(2013\) VFC Provider Participation Requirements](#) program letter, included those related to thermometers, thermometer calibration, and temperature monitoring.

As you are aware, routine temperature monitoring is essential to vaccine management. Vaccines must be stored according to manufacturer recommendations. Equally important, therefore, is the use of precise monitoring equipment. VFC requires providers use calibrated thermometers to ensure accurate temperature readings.

## NEW AND UPDATED RESOURCES

We updated our suite of temperature monitoring resources, specifically temperature logs, job aids, and online lessons, to help providers comply with federal requirements for temperature monitoring. We have also created new thermometer calibration resources to ensure thermometers are maintained and calibrated annually according to new requirements.

We encourage you to download, review with your staff, and begin using them immediately. **Important:** If you have outdated versions of any of these resources, discard them and replace them with the current versions.

### Temperature Logs

We revised the temperature logs to accommodate current, minimum, and maximum temperature documentation. Current, minimum, and maximum temperature readings for each unit must be read and documented twice each workday, at the beginning of the day, and before the end of the workday. Completed temperature logs must be maintained for three years.

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New logs also incorporate visual displays of temperature zones and guide appropriate actions to be taken if documented readings are outside of recommended temperature ranges.

Temperature documentation must be done utilizing the VFC Program's temperature logs.

If you have unused blank copies of the old temperature logs, IMM-682, discard them and begin using these new versions, which can be immediately downloaded:

- [Refrigerator Temperature Log in Fahrenheit IMM-1125 \(10/13\)](#)
- [Freezer Temperature Log in Fahrenheit IMM-1126 \(10/13\)](#)
- [Refrigerator Temperature Log in Celsius IMM-1127 \(10/13\)](#)
- [Freezer Temperature Log in Celsius IMM-1128 \(10/13\)](#)

### **Recording Temperature Job Aids**

In order to assist clinic staff comply with the program's temperature monitoring requirements, Recording Temperature Job Aids have been redesigned. The new materials incorporate monitoring and documentation of minimum and maximum temperature readings, in addition to current temperatures. Monitoring these additional temperature points is critical, as they indicate how cold or how warm your vaccine refrigerator or freezer unit has reached over a period of time (since the last time temperatures were reset).

Download, review, and refer to these job aids for help with completing the new temperature logs.

- [Recording Refrigerator Temperatures IMM-1029 \(10/13\)](#)
- [Recording Freezer Temperatures IMM-1028 \(10/13\)](#)
- [Recording Refrigerator Temperatures in Celsius IMM-1029 \(10/13\)](#)
- [Recording Freezer Temperatures in Celsius IMM-1028 \(10/13\)](#)

### **Updated Temperature Monitoring Videos**

Current EZIZ lessons for monitoring refrigerator and freezer temperatures do not include new requirements for thermometers, calibration, and recording MIN/MAX temperatures. These lessons will be updated in the future; however, until the lessons are updated, we will replace them with new videos that demonstrate how to document temperatures with the new temperature logs.

Even if you have taken these two lessons, we encourage you to take a look at the new videos to help familiarize yourself with the new way of documenting temperatures. The new videos will be available the last week in October.

### **Thermometer Calibration Resources (available on [www.EZIZ.org](http://www.EZIZ.org))**

Relying on accurate equipment for temperature monitoring makes a crucial difference in determining that vaccine storage temperatures are maintained appropriately; it is also critical when determining vaccine viability in the event that vaccines have been exposed to out-of-range temperatures. Thermometer calibration is essential for determining the accuracy of temperature readings.

According to VFC requirements, primary and back-up thermometers must be calibrated annually (or every other year if recommended by the manufacturer), and each device should be covered by a Certificate of Traceability and Calibration Testing, also known as a Certification of

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Calibration. Certificates of Calibration must be kept on file for 3 years and be presented to a VFC Program representative upon request. Thermometers that have not been determined to be accurate to  $\pm 1^{\circ}\text{F}$  ( $\pm 0.5^{\circ}\text{C}$ ) as indicated by calibration results must be replaced.

Review and download these calibration resources:

- [Thermometer Calibration Requirements](#)
- [How to Get Thermometers Calibrated](#)
- [Thermometer Calibration FAQs](#)
- [Checklist for Thermometer Certificate of Traceability & Calibration IMM-1119 \(10/13\)](#)
- [Thermometer Calibration Labs](#)

### Questions?

We appreciate your continued efforts to immunize California's children against vaccine-preventable diseases. The VFC Program is committed to your staff's ongoing development and support. Please visit [www.EZIZ.org](http://www.EZIZ.org) for additional information, resources, and job aids.

If you have any questions, please contact your VFC Representative or VFC Customer Service at 1-877-243-8832 or (877-2Get-VFC). You can also visit our website at [www.EZIZ.org](http://www.EZIZ.org).

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