



Alabama Data Logger Guidelines



The Alabama Department of Public Health, Immunization Division, would like to thank you for your participation in the Alabama Vaccines for Children (VFC) Program. We have enclosed a new data logger for the refrigerator and freezer where your VFC vaccine is stored. These data loggers must have a calibration certificate which is valid for up to three (3) years before they must be replaced.

In order to continue to receive replacement data loggers for your practice at your next VFC compliance visit, your practice must comply with all of the following criteria:

- Wastage and expiration of VFC vaccines should be less than 5% annually.
- Storage and Handling requirement score at your most recent VFC compliance site visit must be greater than or equal to 90%.
- Document the temperatures in the refrigerator and freezer twice (x2) daily AND document the min/max temperature daily on the temperature chart.

It is a requirement under the VFC guidelines that you will have a back-up thermometer in the units where you store VFC vaccine. "VFC providers must have at least one backup thermometer with a valid and current certificate of calibration readily available to ensure that twice a day temperature assessment and recordings can be performed. Backup thermometers must be readily available in case a thermometer in use is no longer working appropriately or calibration testing of the current equipment is required."

Your practice was previously provided with a Fisher brand thermometer by the VFC Program. You may continue to use this thermometer as your back-up thermometer until the calibration certificate is no longer valid. After the calibration certificate is no longer valid, your practice must provide a digital data logger as a back-up thermometer at your own cost. The Alabama VFC Program will no longer provide a back-up thermometer.

DATA LOGGER INTERVALS

- Data loggers should be set to record temperatures every 15 minutes.

HIGH/LOW SETTINGS AND ALARMS

- Data loggers for refrigerators should have the high temperature set at 46°F (8°C) and the low temperature set at 36°F (2°C).
- Data loggers for freezers should have the high temperature set at 5°F (-15°C) and the low temperature set at -58°F (-50°C).
- Low alarms for refrigerator should go off as soon as temperatures go below 36°F (2°C). The high alarm for a refrigerator should go off when the temperature has been out of range for 30 minutes or more.
- The low alarm and high alarm for a freezer should go off when the temperature has been out of range for 30 minutes or more.



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- Data loggers should stop recording data when they are full. Do not set a data logger to overwrite old data when its memory is full.

TEMPERATURE MONITORING

- Providers must manually check the storage unit and complete the temperature monitoring log in addition to any data logger analysis.

DATA COLLECTION

- Data logger data should be downloaded and saved on a computer once a week. The data logger's memory should be cleared after data has been downloaded to the computer.
- The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends keeping 3 years of temperature monitoring data. Providers can store data electronically or have a hard copy.
- Providers should look at temperature data to identify excursions or to determine patterns in changing temperatures.
- Decide on whether to use Fahrenheit or Celsius temperature measurements. The temperature measurement should be consistent with data loggers and temperature logs.
- Providers must manually check the storage unit and complete the temperature monitoring log in addition to any data logger analysis.

REPORTING

- Providers should use data logger data when consulting the Alabama VFC Program and manufacturers on temperature excursions.

SUPPORT VIDEOS

- Providers who use the Berlinger FridgeTag 2L and FreezerTag 2L can find support videos on Berlinger's website at <http://www.berlingerusa.com/fridgetag2/supportvideos/>