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Date: February 13, 2018

To: VFC Program Providers

From: VFC Program

Re: 2018 VFC Requirements

The Iowa Department of Public Health, Bureau of Immunization, would like to inform you of new Vaccines for Children (VFC) Program requirements and practices related to proper vaccine storage and handling.

Temperature Monitoring Devices

VFC providers must use continuous temperature monitoring devices (digital data loggers) to monitor VFC vaccine temperatures during routine clinic storage, transport of vaccine between providers and during offsite vaccination clinics. This requirement became effective January 1, 2018. Information regarding VFC data logger requirements is available in the [VFC Operations Guide](#).

Temperature Monitoring

Providers are required to assess and record minimum and maximum temperatures at the start of each clinic day. Effective, March 1, 2018, Iowa VFC Program requirements for temperature monitoring include:

1. Check and record refrigerator and freezer temperatures twice each workday.
2. Check and record the min/max temperatures at the start of each workday.
Each temperature reading must be accompanied by the time of the reading and the name or initials of the person who assessed and recorded the reading. Storage temperatures should be recorded on a temperature log and maintained for at least 3 years. If a digital data logger has the capability to annotate an electronic temperature check with the time and initials of the person checking the temperature, it is not necessary to manually log the temperature at each temperature check. Manual recording of the daily min/max temperature will be required if not included as part of the annotation.
3. Designated back-up staff should review the temperature log at least weekly to ensure proper temperature recording and take action if out-of-range temperatures are found on the logs during review. Digital data logger data should be downloaded, reviewed and printed every two weeks.

Refrigerator and Freezer Temperature Logs

The Immunization Program has updated the temperature logs to include documentation of daily minimum and maximum temperatures. With the update, the refrigerator and freezer temperature recordings were separated into individual temperature logs. Refrigerator and freezer logs are available in either Fahrenheit or Celsius. To order updated refrigerator and freezer temperature logs, please visit the Immunization Program, [Forms and Downloads webpage](#).

Temperature Alarm Settings

Using temperature alarm settings safeguards vaccine viability by alerting staff of out of range storage temperatures. Data loggers provide more accurate and detailed temperature readings than the previously used min/max thermometers. Data loggers are able to record temperatures to a tenth of a degree, VFC providers can assure viability of vaccines by utilizing appropriate parameters to evaluate storage unit temperatures.

To coincide with the data logger requirements and increased temperature monitoring functionality, new temperature alarm settings will be utilized by the Iowa VFC Program effective March 1, 2018. [Instructions](#) to reconfigure temperature alarm settings for the state supplied LogTag TRED30 are available on the Immunization Program, Vaccine Storage and Handling webpage. The new temperature alarm settings are as follows.

Refrigerator

35.9°F and 46.1°F
1.9°C and 8.1°C

Freezer

5.1°F
-14.9°C

Vaccine Storage and Handling Plan Template

The Vaccine Storage and Handling Plan Template has been updated to reflect 2018 VFC program changes and can be downloaded [here](#). As part of the annual review of the Vaccine Storage and Handling Plan, providers are required to update plans consistent with the 2018 document.

If you have questions regarding VFC vaccine storage and handling requirements please contact an Immunization Program Nurse Clinician:

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- Sharon Monroe: 515-473-2473
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