



MEMO

TO: Prevention Partnership Providers and
Local Public Health Units

FROM: Molly Howell, MPH *MH*
Immunization Program Manager

RE: Implementing Continuous Temperature Monitoring Devices (Data Loggers)

DATE: April 30, 2014

The North Dakota Department of Health (NDDoH) Immunization Program received a one-time grant from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to improve vaccine storage and handling practices in the state. As part of the grant, you are receiving the continuous temperature monitoring devices, data loggers that you requested from the immunization program via an online survey in January 2014. Based on a pilot test and information from other states, Fridge-tag[®] was the selected data logger.

Training

The manufacturer of Fridge-tag[®], Berlinger, will provide a web-based training on **Friday, May 9, 2014 at noon (CST)**. All providers who received data loggers should attend the training before setting the data logger. There is limited space available for the webinar. The first 100 providers who join the webinar can attend. Providers who anticipate multiple attendees from a facility are asked attend as one, if feasible. You can attend the meeting by clicking <https://ndhealth.webex.com/ndhealth/onstage/g.php?t=a&d=662624517>. Registration for this webinar is not required. For providers who are not able to attend the live training, the training will be archived on the immunization program website at www.ndhealth.gov/immunize at later date.

Implementing the data logger

Providers should set the data logger and start using it by **May 14, 2014**. You are responsible for setting the data logger time, date and temperature scale (°C/°F) before using them. You do not need to set the data logger alarm levels; the manufacturer has set them. Please notice that the data logger for the freezer is different from the refrigerator data logger. The alarm setting at the top of the data logger will help you to differentiate data loggers that are set for freezers and refrigerators. Below are the alarm levels for refrigerators and freezers.

Refrigerator:

High alarm: 60 minutes above 8°C
Low alarm: 15 minutes below 2°C

Freezers:

High alarm: 60 minutes above -15°C
No low alarm.

For the first two months, providers should keep their previous thermometer in their refrigerator and freezer until comfortable with the new data logger. After the two months, providers are encouraged to keep previous

certified and calibrated thermometers on hand, as it is a good practice to have a back-up thermometer. In 2015, CDC will be requiring providers to have a back-up thermometer for participation in the Vaccines for Children Program.

Certificate of calibration

The new data logger has a certificate of calibration. You must keep the certificates of calibration on hand at your facility. NDDoH immunization program staff will review all certificates of calibration during VFC site visits. If the certificate of calibration is lost, providers will be asked to purchase a new data logger with a certificate of calibration for VFC compliance.

Temperature data

The new data logger generates a 60 day temperature data report in PDF file. Providers must download the temperature data from the data logger and email it to the immunization program once a month. Providers should email the PDF file to dohtemplogs@nd.gov. Please do not fax the PDF files.

Temperature logs

In addition to the PDF file providers send to the immunization program, providers must continue to check and document refrigerator and freezer temperatures twice a day (morning and afternoon) on a paper temperature log. Providers will be asked for the paper temperature logs during VFC visits. The temperature logs must be kept for at least 3 years for compliance with VFC requirements. Please do not fax or email the paper temperature logs to the NDDoH immunization program. New temperature logs are available at: www.ndhealth.gov/Immunize/Providers/Forms.htm.

Out of range temperatures (temperature excursion)

When there is out of range temperature, providers are required to download the data immediately and email it to the immunization program at dohtemplogs@nd.gov. Providers should check the total duration for the out of range temperature and call vaccine manufacturers to check the viability of the vaccine. All the information, including the total duration for out of range temperature, the vaccine doses involved and the decision made on the viability of the vaccine should be reported to the immunization program using the vaccine trouble shooting guide available at: www.ndhealth.gov/Immunize/Documents/Providers/Forms/Troubleshooting.pdf. If vaccine is wasted contact the immunization program.

Refrigerator and freezer malfunctions

If your refrigerator or freezer is not maintaining the required temperatures, you may be asked to replace them.

Future replacement for data logger

This is a one-time grant. Providers should plan to purchase their own data loggers in 2 years, before the certificate of calibration expires. All certificates of calibration expire in April 2016, which means providers must order a new thermometer at least one month before the date of expiration.

Vaccine transport data loggers and coolers

Thermometers for vaccine transport and vaccine transport coolers will be sent to providers who requested them in the near future. Please wait for future communication from the immunization program. Do not use the Fridge-tag[®] for vaccine transport.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the NDDoH Immunization Program at 701.328.3386 or toll-free at 800.472.2180.

Thank you.