



Vaccine Storage During Temporary Closure Due to COVID-19

The following information was provided by Jeff Neccuzi, Vaccine Manager/VFC Coordinator Division of Immunization Services, West Virginia Bureau for Public.

Below is important vaccine storage information for primary care practitioners, many of whom are enrolled as providers in the West Virginia Vaccines for Children (VFC) Program. The following steps should be taken to ensure appropriate cold-chain maintenance for clinics **that have closed or will be closing temporarily** due to COVID-19:

1. Please ensure documentation that vaccines are being appropriately stored or transported to an alternate safe storage location.
2. If transport of vaccines is not desired or feasible, and a digital data logger (DDL) is present and in use that can store sufficient data for the closure, leave vaccine in current unit and mark "do not use".
3. Upon reopening of the clinic, review all DDL data and take action on any temperature excursion, if any, before administering vaccine.
4. When reviewing DDL data it is important to check that complete data are available for all dates and times.
5. Determine the length of time/capacity that the DDL has to record temperatures and arrange for the data to be downloaded at necessary intervals if possible, and then reset the DDL to begin recording temperatures again.
6. If the DDL ultimately did not have enough capacity to record during the period of closure or experienced failures, you should consult with the vaccine manufacturer(s) to determine if the vaccine can be used or should be discarded. In the unfortunate event that any VFC-supplied vaccines are determined to be compromised by the vaccine manufacturer(s) and must be discarded, you must document the wastage on a Vaccine Return form. A copy of the return form can be found here [Return Vaccine Form](#) and the instructions here [Return Vaccine Form \(RVF\) Instructions](#)

If you have any questions about the use of DDL or other vaccine storage issues please contact Mark Shouldis of the VFC Program at 304-531-3334. For other issues, please contact the Division of Immunization Services at 304-558-2188.