

A Message to Primary Care Practitioners Enrolled as West Virginia Vaccines for Children (VFC) Program Providers

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 https://oeps.wv.gov/immunizations/documents/vfc/manual/7/vaccine_return_form.pdf](https://oeps.wv.gov/immunizations/documents/vfc/manual/7/vaccine_return_form.pdf) and the instructions [here https://oeps.wv.gov/immunizations/documents/vfc/manual/7/vaccine_return_instructions.pdf](https://oeps.wv.gov/immunizations/documents/vfc/manual/7/vaccine_return_instructions.pdf)

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, the Division of Immunization Services can be reached at 304-558-2188. Thank you very much.

Sincerely,

Jeff Neccuzi
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Division of Immunization Services
West Virginia Bureau for Public
304-356-4035