



**North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services
Division of Public Health**

Pat McCrory
Governor

Aldona Z. Wos, M.D.
Ambassador (Ret.)
Secretary DHHS

Penelope Slade-Sawyer
Division Director

February 20, 2015

MEMORANDUM

TO: North Carolina Immunization Program (NCIP) Providers

FROM: Wendy Holmes, RN, Head *WH*
Immunization Branch

SUBJECT: Vaccines for Children (VFC) Requirements for 2015

The purpose of this memo is to reiterate the changes in VFC requirements that are effective in 2015. You may recall that an earlier memo went out to outline these changes on May 27, 2014. The memo may be found at the following link: <http://bit.ly/2014VFCUpdate>.

As a reminder, the following requirements became effective January 1, 2015:

- Clinics/practices serving both VFC and non-VFC eligible children must clearly label their VFC stock and privately purchased vaccine.
- All vaccine management and storage and handling plans must include a review date, and the printed name, signature, and title of the preparer.
- All new thermometer purchases must be either a glycol encased probe digital thermometer OR preferably a glycol encased probe digital data logger thermometer. The thermometer must be placed in a central area of the storage unit with the vaccines.
- The thermometer must have a current certificate issued by an International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation (ILAC) accredited laboratory. All certificates must include the following: model number, serial number, date of calibration, measurement results indicating unit passed testing, the document recommended uncertainty within +/- 0.5 C (1F), and capability of +/- 0.5 C (1F).
- Providers must have at least one back up thermometer with a current certificate of calibration on hand (not stored in the unit alongside the current thermometer).
- In addition to twice a day temperature assessments, each temperature reading must be accompanied by: 1) the time of the reading, and 2) the name (or initials) of the person who assessed and recorded the reading.
- Providers may no longer purchase combination units for vaccine storage. All new purchases must be stand-alone units.

Please note: Providers' designated primary VFC coordinators and back-up coordinators must complete the annual 2015 VFC program training requirements in one of the following three ways: by completing the "You Call the Shots" modules 10 and 16 at: <http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/ed/youcalltheshots.htm> , by participating in a site visit, or by attending the state immunization conference. The requirement must be met by October 1, 2015.

If you have questions or concerns, please contact the Help Desk at 1-877-873-6247. For questions specifically about vaccine storage and handling, dial the Help Desk number, and select option 4.

Cc: SMT CO Staff Regional Staff Vaccine Manufacturers Elizabeth Hudgins Peter Graber Jason Swartz
Frank Skwara Desiree Elekwa-Izuakor Terri Pennington Taryn Edwards Gregg Griggs Danny Staley

www.ncdhhs.gov • www.publichealth.nc.gov • www.immunize.nc.gov

Tel 919-707-5550 • Fax 919-870-4824

Location: 5601 Six Forks Road • Raleigh, NC 27609

Mailing Address: 1917 Mail Service Center • Raleigh, NC 27699-1917

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