



## MEMO

**TO:** Prevention Partnership Providers and  
Local Public Health Units

**FROM:** Abbi Pierce, MPH   
Vaccines for Children Manager

**RE:** New Data Logger Requirement to Start in 2015

**DATE:** August 22, 2014

The North Dakota Department of Health (NDDoH) Immunization Program distributed Fridgetag<sup>®</sup> 2 data loggers in May 2014. Only providers who requested the data loggers received them. Data loggers are the most reliable thermometers for monitoring vaccine temperatures, as they measure and record temperatures every minute.

Following the implementation of data loggers, many providers found that their storage units were incapable of maintaining temperatures required for vaccine storage. As of Monday, August 18th, 43 providers have had out of range temperatures that most likely would not have been found prior to the implementation of a data logger. Also eight providers have had to waste vaccine and three have had to revaccinate patients as the out-of-range temperatures were not noticed prior to administering non-viable vaccine. Many of the temperature excursions were found when providers were using combination storage units to store both refrigerated and frozen vaccines.

With this information it has become clear that data loggers are a necessary component to proper storage and handling. **Therefore, data loggers will be required for every storage unit that stores Vaccines for Children (VFC) or state-supplied vaccine as of January 1, 2015.** Any unit that is found to have VFC or state-supplied vaccines without a data logger after January 1, 2015 will be required to purchase one prior to receiving any further vaccine from the NDDoH. Use of data loggers will be assessed at VFC site visits starting in 2015.

For the first instance vaccine is found to be non-viable following implementation of data loggers providers will not be required to replace VFC or state vaccine with privately-purchased inventory. However if out-of-range temperatures are ignored or happen again, providers will be required to replace all lost vaccine.

If you did not receive data loggers from NDDoH previously, you may still request them. All requests must be emailed to Rahel at [rgemmeda@nd.gov](mailto:rgemmeda@nd.gov) by close of business on September 5, 2014. Requests for data loggers will not be accepted after that date and providers will be required to purchase their own prior and have in place by January 1, 2015. Providers are also responsible for keeping calibration certificates on hand and recalibrating or purchasing new data loggers when they expire.

Prior to purchasing any storage equipment or data loggers please refer to purchasing guides on NDDoH's website at [www.ndhealth.gov/Immunize/Providers/Forms.htm](http://www.ndhealth.gov/Immunize/Providers/Forms.htm) or contact the immunization program to ensure what your facility is purchasing follows the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)'s guidelines.

Also starting January 1, 2015, the CDC is requiring that all VFC providers have at least one back-up, certified calibrated thermometer for VFC vaccine storage. The NDDoH will be purchasing back-up data loggers for all VFC enrolled providers to comply with this requirement.

The NDDoH cannot require data loggers for storage units used solely for privately purchased vaccines. However, the NDDoH and CDC recommend the use of data loggers for vaccine storage and handling. Additionally, combination refrigerator/freezer units are not recommended for storing privately purchased frozen vaccines.

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