

VFC Temperature Monitoring Allowances During Pandemic-Induced DDL Shortage

CDC is aware of the challenges awardees and providers have had purchasing a backup digital data loggers (DDL) due to high market demand and low supply. The VFC program offers the following temperature monitoring device (TMD) allowances for awardees and providers who are unable to acquire a backup DDL. These allowances are ranked in order of preference.

Priority	TMD	Temp Reading
1 st Choice	DDL	Check/record min/max before clinic day
2 nd Choice	Recently expired (≤ 2 years) DDL	Check/record min/max before clinic day
3 rd Choice	Min/Max Thermometer	Check/record min/max before and at the end of the clinic day
4 th Choice	Digital Thermometer	Check/record temperature before and at the end of the clinic day

CDC recommends thermometers with the following characteristics:

- Provide monitoring information with an active display.
- Be a digital thermometer with a detachable probe that best reflects vaccine temperatures (e.g., a probe buffered with glycol, glass beads, sand, or Teflon®)
- Include an alarm for out- of- range temperatures.
- Have a reset button if using a data logger with a min/max display.
- Be capable of showing current temperature, as well as minimum and maximum temperatures.
- Be within $\pm 0.5^{\circ}\text{C}$ accuracy ($\pm 1^{\circ}\text{F}$).
- Have a low battery indicator.

Please note that each TMD has different temperature reading requirements. Future follow-up will continue to be triggered in PEAR for DDL non-compliance. Awardees should work with providers to ensure a DDL is obtained as soon as available. These allowances will be rescinded once the market returns to normal.

Please submit any questions to the PEAR helpdesk (pear@cdc.gov).