



2015 New VFC Requirements

Five VFC Program Changes Effective 1/1/2015

There will be five new Vaccines for Children (VFC) Program requirements starting January 2015.

1. **Backup Thermometer:** VFC providers will be required to have a backup certified calibrated thermometer to use when their primary thermometers fail or are being recalibrated.
 - Unfortunately, the Colorado VFC Program does not have the funding to provide backup certified calibrated thermometers for providers.
 - It will be your responsibility to purchase a certified calibrated backup thermometer.
 - It will be your responsibility to maintain the calibration for your backup thermometer.
 - Using accurate and calibrated thermometers is essential to monitor that you are storing your vaccines within the appropriate temperature ranges.
 - Investing in reliable temperature monitoring devices is less expensive than replacing vaccines wasted due to inaccurate temperature readings.
 - For additional information and guidance on thermometers, please see the Backup Thermometer Guidance, Backup Thermometer FAQs, [AAP Resources Data Loggers and Vaccine Monitoring, Thermometer Calibration Information](#)].

2. **Documentation for Temperatures Logs:** In addition to the twice a day temperature readings, the time and name or initials of the person taking the reading must be documented on the temperature log.
 - New temperature logs are currently available to download from www.coloradovfc.com have space allotted to record time and initials.

3. **Vaccine Management Plan Documentation:** Your Vaccine Management Plan must include the date the plan was last updated with the name, title and signature of the person updating the plan.
 - The Vaccine Management Plan Template available to download from www.coloradovfc.com includes a page to document when and who last updated the plan.
 - Your Vaccine Management Plan must be updated at least once a year or more frequently if there have been staff changes.
 - This new requirement is a good opportunity to make sure your plan is current and that staff are properly trained and know where the plan is located.

4. **Thermometer Placement:** Thermometers or the thermometer probe must be placed in the central area of your vaccine storage unit, next to the vaccines.
 - Your thermometer will more accurately measure the temperature of vaccines when it is placed next to the vaccines.

5. **Separation of VFC and Private Vaccine Stock:** VFC vaccine must be kept separate from other public or private vaccines.
 - Your site must be able to physically differentiate between your VFC and private vaccine inventory. Options to separate vaccine inventory include:
 - Use VFC stickers or a marker to label vaccine boxes as VFC.
 - Use separate bins to store VFC and private vaccine within the storage unit.
 - Use separate shelves to store VFC and private vaccine within the storage unit.
 - Use separate storage units for VFC and private vaccines.