

**NEW YORK**  
state department of  
**HEALTH**

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Commissioner

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April 15, 2013

**To:** Vaccines for Children (VFC) Providers

**From:** New York State Department of Health, Bureau of Immunization

**Re:** Revisions to New York State Department of Health Bureau of Immunization,  
Thermometer Guide for Storage and Handling of Publicly Purchased Vaccine

Beginning June 1, 2013, the New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH) Bureau of Immunization Vaccine Program is modifying the requirements for certified, calibrated thermometers. The changes comply with U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) requirements that increase health care provider accountability for publicly purchased vaccines.

Changes are as follows:

- Certificates of Calibration that do not specify a recalibration date, will require **annual** calibration.
- NYSDOH strongly encourages providers who may be purchasing new thermometers, whose calibration certificates may be expiring, or who may not have calibrated thermometers, to purchase digital data loggers with a probe in a glycol buffer for all refrigerators and freezers where VFC vaccine is stored.
- Health care providers are encouraged to refer to the CDC publication *Vaccine Storage and Handling Toolkit (November 2012)* for guidance on thermometer selection and the recalibration process. The toolkit can be found at:  
[www.cdc.gov/vaccines/recs/storage/toolkit/storage-handling-toolkit.pdf](http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/recs/storage/toolkit/storage-handling-toolkit.pdf).
- The list of sample manufacturers and prices has been modified.

For questions, call the VFC hotline at: 1-800-543-7468.