

New York State Department of Health Bureau of Immunization

Thermometer Guide for Storage and Handling of Publicly Purchased Vaccine

The New York State Department of Health Bureau of Immunization does not recommend or endorse products or manufacturers. The information below is intended to provide guidance in selecting thermometers that meet federal and state requirements of the NYS Vaccine Program, and the needs of individual medical practices.

Thermometers are a critical part of good storage and handling practices. Health care providers enrolled in the NYS Vaccine Program are required to have calibrated thermometers in all refrigerator and freezer compartments used for vaccine storage of publicly funded vaccine. All thermometers are calibrated as part of the manufacturing process. This requirement refers to a second calibration process that occurs after manufacturing, but before marketing, and is documented with a certificate that comes with the product.

For measuring vaccine storage unit temperatures, the NYS Vaccine Program requires health care providers to purchase calibrated thermometers with a Certificate of Traceability and Calibration. The traceability declaration is to confirm that the measurement standards and instruments used during calibration of the product are from an International Organization of Standardization (ISO) accredited testing laboratory, from the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST), or from another internationally recognized standards agency.

VFC Providers will be asked to produce certificates of calibration for each thermometer at the time of a VFC Compliance Site Visit. All thermometers used for monitoring publicly purchased vaccine will require recalibration at least every two years to adhere to manufacturer specifications and guidelines. Recalibration periods should not exceed two years.

Calibrated and certified thermometers are available in a variety of types including digital, bio-safe liquid, continuous graphic, and minimum/maximum thermometers.

Regardless of the type of thermometer used, all VFC providers are required to take temperatures in both freezer and refrigerator units twice daily, record the temperatures on IAC temperature logs, notify the VFC Program if temperatures are out of range, and maintain the logs for a period of three years.

Below is a chart giving a sample list of manufacturers that currently offer calibrated thermometers with valid documentation (i.e., certificate).

At the time this list was compiled, prices ranged from \$44.95 to \$75.

Company	Website	Possible Models	Phone
Control Company	www.control3.com	4048 or 4127	1-281-482-1714
Fisher Scientific	www.fishersci.com	15-059-148 (freezer) 15-059-147 (refrigerator)	1-800-766-7000
Nova-Tech International, Inc.	www.novatech-usa.com	4605	1-866-433-6682
Taylor Precision Products	www.taylorusa.com		1-866-843-3905