



New York State Vaccines for Children (VFC) Program Policy for State-Supplied Fridge-Tag®2L Data Loggers

Beginning January 1st 2018, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) will require the use of continuous temperature monitoring devices (digital data loggers) in all vaccine storage equipment containing publicly-funded vaccine.

To support New York State Vaccines for Children (NYS VFC) Providers in meeting this requirement, the NYS VFC Program is sending each enrolled VFC Provider two (2) Fridge-Tag®2L data loggers, free of charge¹. These devices meet all VFC Program requirements. **VFC Providers are responsible for purchasing data loggers as needed for each additional storage unit and for purchasing at least one backup data logger.** The backup data logger will be used when calibration of primary devices is due or if one of the primary device(s) malfunction.

If your practice already uses continuous temperature monitoring devices that meet requirements², the state supplied devices may be used as backup or in addition to your current temperature monitoring devices. Additional information on the 2018 requirement can be found in the updated [Temperature Monitoring Requirements](#) document.

This document outlines the policy and responsibilities of providers using the state-supplied Fridge-Tag®2L data loggers:

Setup/Training

- VFC Providers are responsible for ensuring the Fridge-Tag®2L data loggers are correctly setup in each storage unit.
- Providers are responsible for ensuring that all staff checking and assessing temperatures are properly trained in use of the Fridge-Tag®2L devices. The NYS VFC program provides training, technical support, and written instructions for using the Fridge-Tag®2L data loggers.

Daily Temperature Checks and Data Downloads

- The use of the Fridge-Tag®2L data logger or any type of continuous temperature monitoring device **DOES NOT** replace your twice daily temperature checks or entry of temperatures into the New York State Information System (NYSIIS) temperature log.
- **In addition to the current temperature recordings, beginning in January 2018, providers will also be required to enter minimum and maximum (min/max) temperature readings into the NYSIIS Temperature log at least once per day.** It is recommended that the min/max temperature readings be checked each day when the office first opens.
- Providers are responsible for downloading and reviewing data from the Fridge-Tag®2L on at least a weekly basis AND whenever an alarm is indicated.

Alarms/Temperature Excursions

- Providers are required to contact the VFC Program at 1-800-543-7468 whenever a Fridge-Tag®2L alarm is indicated ("X" on screen). The NYS VFC Program provides technical assistance to VFC providers in responding to temperature excursions.
- Providers are required to respond to Fridge-Tag®2L alarms within a timely manner. **Providers who ignore alarms, do not conduct twice daily temperature checks, or do not follow up with the VFC Program will be financially responsible for lost vaccine.**
- The NYS VFC Program is not responsible for any lost vaccine.
- Please refer to the [NYS VFC Storage Unit Guidance document](#) for information on replacing a storage unit that is not maintaining required temperatures.

¹Continued distribution of temperature monitoring devices by the NYS VFC Program is not guaranteed and is based on the availability of funding. Receipt of continuous temperature monitoring devices should not be considered part of enrollment and participation in the federal VFC program. ²Must come with a valid (ILAC or ISO/IEC) certificate of calibration that confirms it measures accurately, within +/- 0.5°C (+/-1°F). Active temperature display is a display that is located **on-site** and can be accessed and checked by staff on a regular basis. The display is required to indicate the current temperature inside of the unit and display daily minimum and maximum temperatures. Continuous temperature monitoring = temperature reading recorded into memory at least every 30 minutes. Device must have capability to produce a data output. Refer to [Temperature Monitoring Requirements document](#) for more information.

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Calibration

- Calibration for each state-supplied Fridge-Tag®2L data logger is performed by an ILAC-accredited laboratory and meets NYS VFC Program requirements. The calibration is valid for a period of three (3) years.
- Providers are responsible for maintaining the calibration certificates that come with each Fridge-Tag®2L device and providing these certificates to NYSDOH staff at each VFC Program site visit.
- Fridge-Tag®2L data loggers **cannot be recalibrated. They will need to be replaced with new continuous temperature monitoring devices by the practice, after calibration has expired.**

Device Maintenance

- Each state-supplied Fridge-Tag®2L device comes with a two-year product warranty. Defective devices will be replaced by the vendor at no charge. This includes devices that experience battery failure within the two-year warranty period.
- The Fridge-tag®2L contains a CR Lithium battery. The housing of the device must never be opened nor destroyed. Never expose the Fridge-tag®2L display monitor to temperatures above the allowed range (fire, oven, microwaves, etc.)
- Providers are responsible for protecting each Fridge-Tag®2L device from damage. **Devices that are damaged or broken due to operator error or misuse will not be replaced.** Misuse includes damage to the device probe wire cable because of improper handling. For additional information on probe cable care, please refer to the **Fridge Tag2L Data Logger Implementation and User Guide:** (https://www.health.ny.gov/prevention/immunization/vaccines_for_children/docs/fridge_tag2l_user_guide.pdf).
- Providers are responsible for replacing Fridge-Tag®2L devices that fail outside of the warranty period or are damaged at the practice.
- Providers are responsible for monitoring the devices for damage, battery failure, low battery or malfunction. The end of battery life is indicated by the low battery indicator on the display (one bar remaining).
- Contact the NYS VFC Program for device trouble shooting and to assist with determining if a warranty replacement will apply at 1-800-543-7468 or dataloggers@health.ny.gov
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Disposal

- Damaged or unused Fridge-Tag®2L devices should **not** be returned to the VFC Program.
- The Provider is responsible for disposing of the device in accordance with local regulations. The battery complies with IATA DGR Packaging Instruction 970 Section 2 and is therefore not considered dangerous.
- The Fridge-tag®2L may also be returned to the manufacturer for proper recycling. Used Fridge-Tag®2L data loggers should be packaged to protect fragility and returned to the following address:

AERC
2591 Mitchell Ave.
Allentown, PA 18103
Attn: Karen Olewine

Please notate company address and phone number. Only return Fridge-Tag®2Ls to this address.

New York State Department of Health Vaccines for Children (VFC) Program

1-800-543-7468 nyvfc@health.ny.gov www.health.ny.gov/vfc

Data Logger Specific Mailbox: dataloggers@health.ny.gov

MicroDAQ.com, Ltd. (Data Logger Vendor) <https://www.microdaq.com/> 1-877-275-9606