

This document identifies standards for monitoring the storage unit temperature for publicly supplied vaccines. The standards apply to Local Health Jurisdictions (LHJs), hospitals, public and private providers who store publicly purchased vaccines. Publicly purchased vaccines are ordered and received through the Washington State Childhood Vaccine Program at the Washington State Department of Health.

Minimum equipment requirements for vaccine storage unit temperature monitoring:

- Providers must use a certified thermometer or probe for each storage unit compartment.
- Providers must keep at least one certified thermometer as a backup at their site.
- Providers must manually record storage unit temperature measurements on the DOH supplied temperature-monitoring log twice a day. Twice daily temperature monitoring and recording is required regardless of the temperature monitoring system used.
- If a provider uses a data logger or temperature monitoring system, they must download and review temperature data at least once a week. This is in addition to twice daily monitoring requirements.
- Providers must send temperature logs to DOH with the provider's monthly vaccine accountability reports. Providers should also send temperature data from data loggers.

How to monitor vaccine storage temperatures:

- Post the temperature log on the storage unit door. The DOH supplied temperature-monitoring log has separate pages for refrigerator and freezer logs.
- Check the temperature in each unit twice a day. Check the temperatures once in the morning when the storage unit door is opened for the first time. Check the temperature again at the end of the clinic day before the storage unit door is closed for the last time.
- Record the temperatures for each storage unit on each temperature log.
- Record the minimum (MIN) and maximum (MAX) temperatures once a day for each unit.
- Record the time each thermometer was read and initial the temperature log.
- If a provider misses a temperature reading, the blank log entry should remain blank. Do not guess the temperature.

The Washington State Department of Health (DOH) can set additional requirements for vaccine storage temperature monitoring they think are needed to ensure viable vaccines.

These requirements support best practices in vaccine storage and handling as defined by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC):

<http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/recs/storage/toolkit/storage-handling-toolkit.pdf>