

# Montana Immunization Program

## Vaccine Storage Unit and Data Logger Requirements



For more information, contact Lori Hutchinson at 444-0277 or [lhutchinson@mt.gov](mailto:lhutchinson@mt.gov).

### Vaccine storage units must be refrigerators and freezers that are:

- Stable enough to maintain vaccine storage temperatures year-round
- Large enough to hold the year’s largest inventory of vaccine
- Equipped with a calibrated, digital data logger<sup>1</sup> for recording temperatures (see requirements next page)
- A CDC-recommended appliance type. Either
  - A. Pharmaceutical-grade<sup>2</sup> stand-alone<sup>3</sup> or combination<sup>4</sup> units, or
  - B. Household-grade<sup>5</sup> stand-alone units, or
  - C. Household-grade combination units using only the refrigerator section



- **Prohibited** - Dormitory-style storage units<sup>6</sup>, using the refrigerator and freezer of a household-grade combination unit, or using the freezer of a household-grade combination unit.



<sup>1</sup> A digital, continuous monitoring thermometer

<sup>2</sup> Designed to store pharmaceuticals in a laboratory or pharmacy setting

<sup>3</sup> An appliance that is either a refrigerator or freezer

<sup>4</sup> An appliance with both a refrigerator and freezer chamber

<sup>5</sup> Appliances typically found in homes and sold at retail appliance stores

<sup>6</sup> A refrigerator with a small freezer inside the refrigerator chamber and only one external door

## Data Loggers

Data loggers are digital thermometers capable of continuously monitoring and recording temperatures on a predetermined schedule. VFC Providers must have a data logger in each public vaccine storage unit and transport cooler.

Data Loggers must:

- Be continuous recording devices that take readings at least every 30 minutes
- Read temperatures from a buffered probe
- Display the current, minimum, and maximum temperatures on the outside of the storage unit (exceptions for centralized monitoring systems)
- Generate data that is reviewable, archivable (3 years), and able to be sent to the Immunization Program for review
- Alarm to indicate temperatures outside proper vaccine storage temperatures
- Have a current certificate of calibration testing performed within the last two years.

Organization-wide monitoring systems (e.g., TempTrak, Aeroscout) and data loggers built-in to storage units can be used as long as they meet all the requirements listed above.

