

MDHHS Guidance for Responding to Temperature Excursions

Important reminders regarding [temperature excursions](#):

- **ANY** out-of-range temperature is considered an excursion and requires immediate action
- Providers are responsible to follow up on excursions, and Vaccines for Children (VFC) providers must notify their Local Health Department (LHD)
- If you are not confident in identifying or responding to an excursion, contact your LHD for assistance
- Do not use vaccine exposed to out-of-range temperatures until you have received guidance from the vaccine manufacturer and documented that guidance, or the LHD has determined that it is safe for use
- Each event is unique; the manufacturer recommendations during an excursion are based on existing stability data and cannot be applied to future events that seem to be similar
 - Every excursion requires appropriate notification and follow up to ensure vaccine viability determinations are made

If any temperature is out of range, follow these steps:

Identify and Notify

1. Stop vaccinating with any vaccine that may have experienced an excursion
2. Do not discard vaccine(s), notify all staff by placing exposed vaccine in a separate storage container within the unit and label “DO NOT USE”
3. Store the vaccine in question at the manufacturer’s recommended temperature while conducting the investigation on its viability
4. Notify your clinic’s Primary/Backup Vaccine Coordinator and/or supervisor
5. Implement immediate corrective action (shut door if left open, resupply power, etc.)

[Download, Evaluate, and Document Details of Event](#)

6. Download the data logger and review all the data; prepare [this information](#) to share with each vaccine manufacturer and the LHD (the manufacturer will utilize the data and look at the cumulative exposure time/temperatures when determining vaccine viability)
7. Document all details of the event; VFC providers must notify their LHD and provide temperature excursion data if VFC stock is involved
8. If unit is not stabilizing, implement Emergency Plan for transport to backup location/unit; utilize CDC’s guidance when packing for emergency transport, and always transport with data loggers
 - Ensure appropriate transport; see [MDHHS Guidance on Vaccine Transport](#)
 - For packing refrigerated vaccine in an emergency, see [CDC Guidance on Packing Vaccines for Transport During Emergencies](#)
 - Print and utilize [Transport Temperature Logs](#)

Contact Manufacturers and LHD

9. Contact every vaccine manufacturer for each vaccine in question to obtain a decision on vaccine stability (the vaccine manufacturers will request excursion temperatures, time, vaccines, etc.). Some manufacturers may have you fill out the report online. Always request a copy of your conversation with the manufacturer.

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10. Contact the LHD and provide all documentation, including manufacturer reports—details for vaccine losses can be reviewed in the Michigan VFC Provider Manual in section 8 under VFC Loss Policy at www.michigan.gov/vfc

Manufacturer Contact Information:

- Dynavax: 1-844-375-4728
- GlaxoSmithKline: 1-888-825-5249 or www.gskusmedicalaffairs.com
- Merck: 1-800-672-6372
- Moderna: 1-866-663-3762
- Novavax: 1-844-668-2829
- Pfizer: 1-800-438-1985
- Sanofi Pasteur: 1-800-822-2463 or www.sanofiusmedicalinformation.com
- Seqirus: 1-855-358-8966

Digital Data Logger Reminders:

- Check device calibration, and see if it may be due for recalibration or replacement
- Keep extra batteries on hand, and have a backup digital data logger available in case of malfunction or need of calibration
- All data logger requirements are outlined in the Michigan VFC Provider Manual, www.michigan.gov/vfc, under "Temperature Monitoring Devices"

Refer to These Resources for More Information:

- CDC Storage and Handling Toolkit: www.cdc.gov/vaccines/hcp/admin/storage/toolkit/index.html
- MDHHS guidance for storage and handling can be found at: www.michigan.gov/vaccinequicklooks
- Michigan VFC Provider Manual: www.michigan.gov/vfc
- Your Local Health Department VFC Contact