

Indiana State Department of Health Immunization Program Vaccines For Children Thermometer Guidelines

1. Certified Calibrated Thermometers are required for the Vaccines for Children Program through ISDH.
2. Certified Calibrated Thermometers best ensure vaccine viability by providing accurate temperature reading and will hold up in a court of law.
3. Place thermometers in the middle of the refrigerator and freezer compartments. Do not place thermometers next to sides or back of refrigerator/freezer, drawers, or doors.
4. Record temperature for refrigerator and freezer twice a day. Once in the morning after arrival and once in the evening before leaving.
5. Thermometer purchase must come with a certificate indicating traceability to standards provided by National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST).
6. Calibrated Thermometers will or may need to be recalibrated periodically. This time frame between recalibration differs amongst manufacturers.

Recommended Types of Certified Calibrated Thermometers

Mercury-filled or Red Alcohol-filled:

Thermometers mounted or totally immersed in shatterproof plastic bottle filled with liquid (typically glycol).

Maximum and Minimum

Thermometer has visual guides of maximum and minimum temperature using two thermometers, typically mercury-filled.

Digital

Alarm Thermometer: Temperature-buffered sensor sealed in bottled glycol solution is placed in refrigerator or freezer. Attached wire sensor extends from inside of storage unit to outside digital read out and generally requires batteries.

Solar Thermometers: Powered by solar panels with battery back-up with attached wire sensor extending from inside of storage unit to outside digital read out.

Continuous Graphic

The thermometer sensor graphs temperature continuously onto (typically weekly) replaceable circular paper graphs. Temperature sensors extend from inside of storage unit to outside graphic read and generally require batteries. However, clinic must still maintain daily temperature logs.