



PA VFC PROVIDER

Pennsylvania Department of Health,
Bureau of Communicable Diseases, Division of Immunizations

March 31, 2016

Thermometer Recommendations

A digital data logger/continuous temperature monitoring device or a digital min/max thermometer must have an active digital display, a detachable probe encased in a biosafe buffered material, and a valid/current National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) certificate of traceability and calibration. To access the “2016 Digital Data Logger Policy”, please click on the following hyperlink [PA VFC What’s New Page](#)

VFC highly recommends a biosafe glycol-encased probe; but will accept the following buffered materials if NIST certified:

- A vial filled with liquid (i.e., glycol, ethanol, or glycerin)
- A vial filled with loose media (i.e., sand, or glass beads)
- A solid block of material (i.e., Teflon®, or aluminum)

Below are some additional recommendations/requirements:

- It is best to calibrate your thermometer annually; however, the PADOH will accept manufacturer’s suggestion provided they do not exceed two years.
- Thermometer probes must be placed/secured in the center of each storage unit.
- VFC providers are **required** to have at least one back-up thermometer, at the provider site, with a valid and current certificate of calibration readily available to ensure twice a day temperature assessment and recordings.
- Providers are responsible for the maintenance and NIST recalibration of all temperature monitoring devices/thermometers. Newly purchased units and recalibrations are at the expense of the provider site.

Lascar Electronics Digital Data logger Model EL-USB-TP-LCD

If you are experiencing any problems with the “Lascar Electronics Digital Data Logger Thermometer”, model EL-USB-TP-LCD, Lascar and Supply Link would like to offer support to ensure that your thermometer functions properly. Supply Link will evaluate and repair nearly any issue that occurs with the thermometer. Supply Link will contact you once the unit is evaluated and inform you if any repairs are needed. If it is determined that a gold connector is the issue, Lascar will repair the unit free of charge; but you will be responsible for shipping costs. However, if it is determined that the issue is a break in the probe or any other repair, a fee will be charged for the repair. Additionally, Supply Link offers a two year recalibration service for a nominal fee. Due to the contents, it is required that the unit be shipped via UPS. Please contact Scott Downing at Supply Link (614) 565-2084 if you are experiencing any problems with this model.

Meningococcal B Vaccines

The following are recommendations for use of MenB vaccines:

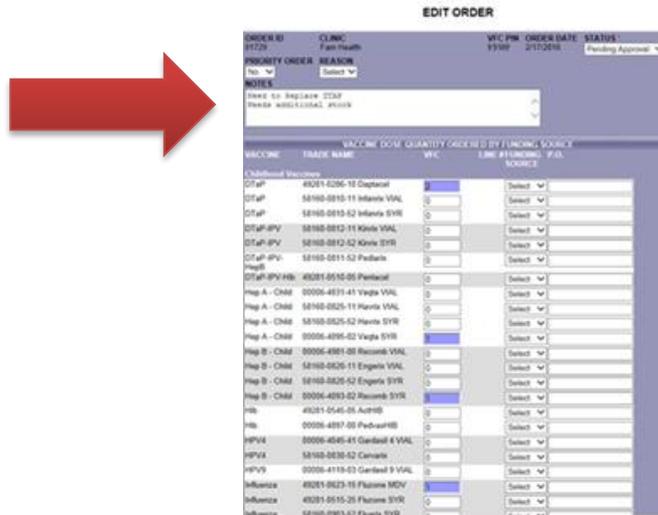
- MenB may be administered to children 10 – 15 years of age at increased risk of meningococcal disease with persistent complement component deficiencies, anatomic or functional asplenia; or because a Serogroup B meningococcal outbreak.
- The ACIP advises that licensed meningococcal B vaccines may be administered to persons 16 through 23 years of age who wish to have short-term protection against *Neisseria meningitidis* Serogroup B (“Men B”).
- The preferred age for administration of the series is 16-18 years.

For more information concerning administration of Bexsero, manufactured by GlaxoSmithKline and Trumenba, manufactured by Pfizer vaccines, and to review the newly released Serogroup B Meningococcal “Vaccine Information Statement” please click on the hyperlink below.

http://www.immunize.org/vis/meningococcal_b.pdf

Edit Order Notes Field

When placing a vaccine order that is larger than your facility's typical monthly order or that your facility is placing a second order for the month, please enter a comment in the "Notes Field" within the Edit Order screen.



The screenshot shows the 'EDIT ORDER' interface. At the top, there are fields for 'ORDER ID', 'CLINIC', 'VFC PIN', 'ORDER DATE', and 'STATUS'. Below this is the 'PROPERTY ORDER' section with 'REASON' and 'Type' dropdowns. The 'NOTES' field is highlighted with a red arrow pointing to it. Below the notes field is a table titled 'VACCINE DOSE QUANTITY ORDERED BY CLINIC SOURCE'. The table has columns for 'VACCINE', 'TRADE NAME', 'VFC', 'LINE #', 'CLINIC', 'P.O.', and 'SOURCE'. The table lists various vaccines such as DTaP, Hib, MMR, and Influenza with their respective quantities and sources.

Please state why in this special circumstance your facility requires an unusually high amount of vaccine. By adding a comment to the "Notes Field" provides information to vaccine ordering staff about the reasons for requesting a large order or additional vaccine order. Large or additional vaccine ordering submitted without a note in the comment field may cause your facility's vaccine order to be delayed or denied.

Below are some typical comments received:

- Upcoming vaccine clinic for patients.
- We have added an extra provider and need to keep 50 doses of each vaccine on hand due to the increase of checkups. The manual inventory count has been done. Thank you.
- Only have 4 doses of DTaP left. Could run out before next order is placed.

If you should have any questions or concerns please contact the DOH Bureau of Communicable Diseases Division of Immunizations at (888) 646-6864.

Question of the Month?

Question: *Do I have to screen for VFC eligibility every time a child comes in to the office?*

Answer: *Yes. VFC eligibility needs to be determined and documented at each immunization encounter.*