

Friday, May 28, 2021

To Louisiana COVID-19 Providers:

The US Center for Disease Control (CDC) and the Louisiana Department of Health (LDH) are aware of the challenges providers are having purchasing digital data loggers (DDL) due to high market demand and low supply. The following is a list of temperature monitoring devices the CDC prefers starting with the most preferred choice:

Priority	Temperature Monitoring Device	Temperature Reading
1st choice	New Digital Data Logger	Check/record min/max before clinic day
2nd choice	Recently expired (≤ 2 years) Digital Data Logger	Check/record min/max before clinic day
3rd choice	Maximum-Minimum Thermometer	Check/record min/max before clinic day
4th choice	Digital Thermometer	Check/record temperature before and at the end of the clinic day

If the DDL logger is not available, recently expired DDLs, mix/max thermometers, and digital thermometers can be used as a temporary fix until a DDL can be obtained.

Please note that if, during a site visit, a provider is found to have an expired DDL or a non-DDL thermometer, the provider will still be documented in the Provider Education, Assessment, and Reporting (PEAR) system as being in non-compliance, for which follow-up will be warranted. This documenting of non-compliance in the midst of the DDL shortage is meant to ensure proper tracking for providers who need to purchase a DDL when supplies are available.

The CDC recommends temperature monitoring devices with the following characteristics:

- Provide monitoring information with an active display
- A digital thermometer with a detachable probe that best reflects vaccine temperature (e.g., a probe buffered with glycol, glass beads, sand, or Teflon[®])
- Include an alarm for out-of-range temperatures
- Have a reset button if using a digital data logger with a min/max display
- Be capable of showing current temperature, as well as minimum and maximum temperatures
- Be within $\pm .5$ °C accuracy (± 1 °F).
- Have a low battery indicator

Please keep in mind that each temperature monitoring device has a different temperature reading requirements. Future follow-up will continue to be triggered in PEAR for DDL non-compliance. These allowances will be rescinded once the market returns to normal.

For guidance on ordering digital data loggers, access the [2021 Louisiana Vaccines for Children Program Digital Data Logger Thermometer Guide](#) found on lalinks.org under VFC/VOMS.

Thank you for helping bring back Louisiana,

Louisiana Department of Health
Immunization Program