



State of New Jersey

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Dear New Jersey Vaccines for Children Program Providers:

The New Jersey Vaccines for Children (NJVFC) Program would like to remind all providers of the importance of proper vaccine storage and handling to ensure that vaccines provide children with maximum protection against preventable diseases.

To achieve the best possible results from vaccines, carefully follow the recommendations for storage, handling, and administration found in each vaccine's package insert. Here are other steps you can take to help ensure vaccine safety:

- Carefully select and use the proper vaccine storage units to store vaccines.
- Have a properly calibrated thermometer or temperature recording device inside each storage compartment.
- Evaluate your cold chain procedures to ensure that vaccine storage and handling guidelines are being followed.
- Inspect vaccines upon delivery and monitor refrigerator and freezer temperatures to assure maintenance of the cold chain.
- Rotate vaccine stock so the oldest vaccines are used first.
- If errors in vaccine storage and administration occur, take corrective action immediately to prevent them from happening again and notify the NJ VFC Program at 609-826-4862.

For additional information, please see the resources available through the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) website at <http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/recs/storage/default.htm> .

Attached please find and review the document titled "Don't Be Guilty of These Errors in Vaccine Storage and Handling" available through the Immunization Action Coalition at <http://www.immunize.org/catg.d/p3036.pdf> to ensure you are familiar with safe vaccine handling practices.

Thank you for your cooperation,

Steven Bors
VFC Program Manager