Temperature Monitoring Best Practices for Frozen Vaccines—Celsius (C)

1. Thermostat should be at the factory-set or midpoint temperature setting

   Frozen Vaccines

   Too Cold! Take Action!  Too Warm! Take Action!
   -50° C  -15° C
   -57° C -54° C -51° C  -46° C -43° C -40° C -37° C -12° C -9° C

   Report out-of-range temperatures immediately!

2. Record daily temperatures

   3 steps, daily: Check and record min/max temperatures at the start of the workday.

   1. Min/Max: The coldest and warmest temperatures in the refrigerator since you last reset the thermometer
      Note: If your device does not display min/max temperatures, then check and record current temperature a minimum of 2 times (at start and end of workday)

   2. Reset: The button you push after you have recorded the min/max temperatures

   3. Current temperature: Check current temperature each time you access vaccines in the refrigerator

3. Take action if out of range!

   • Contact your state or local health department immediately. Or for private vaccines, call the manufacturer directly.

   • Tell them the total amount of time the freezer temperature was out of range.

   • Take your time. Check and record temperatures accurately.

   • Make your mark! Initial the log when recording temperatures.

   • Leave it blank. If min/max temperatures were not recorded, leave the space blank!

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Visit www.cdc.gov/vaccines/SandH or contact your state health department for more information.

CS243541-8 Revision February 2018
Review the temperature readings below and select the correct answer.

1. Current temp: -17°C
   Min: -23°C
   Max: -17°C

   A. Current temp and min/max are within range—no action necessary
   B. Current temp is within range, min/max out of range—take action
   C. Current temp is within range, min/max out of range—no action necessary
   D. Current temp and min/max are out of range—take action

2. Current temp: -14°C
   Min: -17°C
   Max: -14°C

   A. Current temp and min/max are within range—no action necessary
   B. Current temp is within range, min/max out of range—take action
   C. Current temp is within range, min/max out of range—no action necessary
   D. Current temp and min/max are out of range—take action

3. Current temp: -26°C
   Min: -30°C
   Max: -18°C

   A. Current temp and min/max are within range—no action necessary
   B. Current temp is within range, min/max out of range—take action
   C. Current temp is within range, min/max out of range—no action necessary
   D. Current temp and min/max are out of range—take action

4. Current temp: -18°C
   Min: -27°C
   Max: -11°C

   A. Current temp and min/max are within range—no action necessary
   B. Current temp is within range, min/max out of range—take action
   C. Current temp is within range, min/max out of range—no action necessary
   D. Current temp and min/max are out of range—take action

5. “Take action” means (circle any that apply):
   A. Call the state/local VFC program (or manufacturer for private vaccines) for guidance.
   B. Notify the practice’s vaccine coordinator to get the freezer temperature back in range.
   C. Remove all vaccines that are out of range and discard them.
   D. Discard any vaccine that does not look frozen.

Answers: 1-A, 2-D, 3-A, 4-B, 5-A and B