



## TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF STATE HEALTH SERVICES

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**TO:** Texas Vaccines for Children (TVFC) Providers

**FROM:** Saroj Rai, Ph.D.   
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**DATE:** April 10, 2013

**SUBJECT:** 2013 Storage Equipment Requirements

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The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has recently updated the federal Vaccines for Children (VFC) Operations Guide. One section that has been updated refers to the requirements of vaccines storage equipment that is used in all VFC provider sites. The following changes will become effective in the Texas Vaccines for Children (TVFC) program immediately and will be reviewed during provider site visits.

### **Requirements of Vaccine Storage Equipment**

The following outlines the changes to the types and conditions of refrigerators and freezers that are acceptable for vaccine storage of TVFC vaccine.

A refrigerator/freezer combination unit must have separate exterior doors for the refrigerator and freezer compartments; or be stand-alone separate refrigerator and freezer units for vaccine storage at any time. Refrigerators with a freezer unit inside (does not have a separate outside door) will not be allowed for the storage of TVFC vaccine at anytime, including temporary day storage. Providers with this type of storage unit will need to upgrade refrigeration/freezer equipment in accordance with the guidelines.

Studies by National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) concluded that dormitory-style or bar-style combination units pose a significant risk to vaccine viability, even when used for temporary storage.

DSHS Immunization Branch, DSHS Health Service Regions, local health departments, and contracted quality assurance staff will review and confirm that dormitory-style units are not being used to store TVFC vaccines during public and private provider site visits.

For additional guidance, please refer to the CDC website on Vaccine Storage at <http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/recs/storage/default.htm>

If you have questions, please contact your Department of State Health Service (DSHS) Health Service Region or TVFC Regional Consultant. The Regional Consultant contact information is included below.

<b>Health Service Region</b>	<b>Consultant</b>	<b>Phone</b>	<b>Email</b>
Region 1, 4/5 North and 7	Joshua Hay	512-776-6496	<a href="mailto:Joshua.Hay@dshs.state.tx.us">Joshua.Hay@dshs.state.tx.us</a>
Region 6/5 South, 9, and 25 (City of Houston)	Shyla Delp	512-776-6333	<a href="mailto:Shyla.Delp@dshs.state.tx.us">Shyla.Delp@dshs.state.tx.us</a>
Region 8, 11, and 00 (City of San Antonio)	Alma Chavez	956-421-5554	<a href="mailto:Alma.Chavez@dshs.state.tx.us">Alma.Chavez@dshs.state.tx.us</a>
Region 2, 3, and 10	Shirley Rocha	512-776-3417	<a href="mailto:Shirley.Rocha@dshs.state.tx.us">Shirley.Rocha@dshs.state.tx.us</a>