



**NEW YORK CITY DEPARTMENT OF  
HEALTH AND MENTAL HYGIENE**

Mary T. Bassett, MD, MPH  
*Commissioner*

July 15, 2016

**Jane R. Zucker, MD, MSc**  
Assistant Commissioner  
Bureau of Immunization

42-09 28<sup>th</sup> Street, CN21  
Queens, NY 11101-4132

Dear Colleague:

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has adjusted its guidance on the Fahrenheit temperature range for storing refrigerated vaccine, from 35°F - 46°F to 36°F - 46°F. The Celsius temperature range remains unchanged at 2°C - 8°C. CDC is making this adjustment in response to issues raised by health care providers about differences in guidance from vaccine storage experts on the Fahrenheit temperature range.

The new Fahrenheit temperature range of 36°F - 46°F aligns with guidance from the United States Pharmacopeia (USP), a scientific organization that sets federally recognized quality standards for food and drugs. By adjusting CDC's guidance for the Fahrenheit temperature range, CDC is ensuring that its recommended temperature range does not conflict with the package inserts of routinely recommended refrigerated vaccines; the package inserts' recommendation of 2°C - 8°C converts to exactly 35.6°F - 46.4°F, hence the previous 35°F lower bound was below the recommendation.

The updated CDC [Vaccine Storage and Handling Toolkit](http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/hcp/admin/storage/toolkit/index.html) for health care providers contains best practices related to vaccine storage and handling, product information from vaccine manufacturers, and information on the new Fahrenheit temperature range for storing refrigerated vaccines, and is available at <http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/hcp/admin/storage/toolkit/index.html>.

CDC does not recommend revaccinating patients who received vaccine stored at 35°F, nor discarding/returning vaccine previously stored at this temperature. Please replace your Fahrenheit refrigerator temperature logs by downloading updated forms available at: <http://www1.nyc.gov/assets/doh/downloads/pdf/imm/temp-log-F.pdf>. If you use a digital data logger (DDL), you should adjust your alerting parameters to align with the new Fahrenheit range. For instructions on how to do so, please contact your DDL manufacturer.

For further questions on the new temperature range, please contact (347) 396-2400 or email [nycimmunize@health.nyc.gov](mailto:nycimmunize@health.nyc.gov). Thank you for keeping New York City children safe from vaccine-preventable diseases.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Jane R. Zucker'.

Jane R. Zucker, MD, MSc