

Unannounced Storage and Handling Site Visit Questions

- I. If a provider has one dose of DT and it comes to them from McKesson in a Ziploc bag, how would we account for that when checking the unit?

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommends that vaccine should remain in the original packaging as long as possible. Since these repackaged vaccines come directly from the Distributor, these bags can count as original packaging and therefore it is recommended to leave them in the bags.

- II. Do we leave our thermometer in the vaccine storage unit for 2 hours?

Unannounced Storage and Handling Site Visits should take approximately 1 hour to complete. The visit time does not allow a thermometer that is stored at room temperature to acclimate. As such, there are two options available to field reviewers:

1. Condition the glycol bottle prior to placing in storage units in provider offices. Place the glycol bottles in the DSHS HSR or LHD storage units prior to taking them to the provider's office and transport them in an insulated container. This will allow the thermometers to produce accurate readings in less time. Immediately insert probe and thermometer into the provider's vaccine storage unit upon arrival at clinic. Conduct the temperature assessment at the end of the visit.
2. Accept the provider's thermometer reading. The thermometer must meet following criteria:
 - o Current Certificate of Traceability and Calibration from an ILAC accredited laboratory
 - o Accuracy of thermometer verified on the certificate +/- 1 degrees Fahrenheit (0.5 degree Celsius)

- III. Unannounced site visits are for two purposes: (1) to follow-up on a site visit where there were problems and to correct the problems, and (2) to check on the provider. Is that correct?

Unannounced Storage and Handling Site Visits are separate from VFC Compliance Site Visits and any associated follow-up contacts. Unannounced Storage and Handling Site Visits focus on the storage of VFC vaccine and adherence to vaccine storage recommendations and requirements.

For additional information, please contact Codie Prinz, TVFC Program Supervisor, at 512-776-3785 or via email at Codie.Prinz@dshs.state.tx.us