

MEMO

TO: North Dakota Prevention Partnership Providers and Other Immunization Stakeholders

FROM: Jenny Galbraith, Adult Immunization Manager

DATE: May 18, 2022

RE: Funding Available for Vaccine Storage and Handling Equipment

On May 10, 2022, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) announced that digital data loggers (DDL) are now required in COVID-19 vaccine storage units and during transport.

The North Dakota Department of Health (NDDoH) is announcing the availability of funding for vaccine storage and handling equipment. This one-time funding is available to healthcare providers that are unable to purchase vaccine storage and handling equipment using their own funds.

- Facilities will be responsible for maintaining equipment moving forward.
- Partners who are already receiving funding that allows for the purchase of storage equipment (i.e., Local Public Health) are not eligible for reimbursement under this program.
- Past purchases of equipment are not eligible for reimbursement. Allowable purchases made on or after May 18, 2022 will be reimbursed up to \$5,000 per individual facility location (i.e., Clinic A and Clinic B could individually request reimbursement even if both are owned by the same company).
- Reimbursements may include purchasing cost of the equipment as well as tax, shipping, and delivery charges.

Allowable purchases include:

- 1) Vaccine storage units
 - Stand-alone refrigerator unit (unit that only refrigerates)
 - Stand-alone freezer unit (unit that only freezes)

Note: NO dorm-style units, combined refrigerator/freezer units, or ultra-cold units are allowed to be purchased using this funding under any circumstances. **Dorm Style Units should never be used to store vaccine of any kind regardless of if the doses are state funded doses, federally funded doses, or privately purchased vaccine.**

- 2) Digital data logger (including primary DDL for fridge and/or freezer, back up for fridge and or freezer.
 - To be a qualified DDL, it must:
 - Document temperatures at a minimum of every 30 minutes,
 - Be able to be downloaded with times and temperatures
 - Be Calibrated
 - Show min, max and current temp
 - Alarm for out-of-range temperatures
- 3) Vaccine transport coolers that are purpose built for maintaining appropriate refrigerator or freezer temperatures for vaccines (i.e., portable vaccine refrigerator/freezer which is plugged in to an electrical source, qualified container and packout which uses ice or water packs to maintain the temperature when not in the fridge or freezer)

In order to be reimbursed all storage and handling equipment must follow [CDC's storage and handling recommendations](#). Facilities with questions on whether an individual piece of equipment meets these standards should contact the NDDoH Division of Immunization.

Below are resources for the purchase of vaccine storage and handling equipment. These are guides and a provider is not obligated to purchase off of these lists.

[Refrigerator/Freezer Guide](#)

[Thermometer Guide](#)

[Transport Equipment Guide](#)

Providers must receive pre-approval from the NDDoH before they submit a reimbursement request. Facilities should seek that prior approval using this short [Qualtrics survey](#) by **September 15, 2022**.

If a provider receives approval they will then submit a follow-up survey and include pictures and receipts of the purchased equipment by **September 30, 2022**. Following this submission, a letter of agreement will be issued by the NDDoH detailing the allowed expenses that will be reimbursed. Checks will be issued and mailed within a few



days of issuing the letter of agreement. **Reimbursements will be made on a first come, first served basis.**

Contact the NDDoH Division of Immunization with any questions at 701.328.3386 or covidvaccine@nd.gov.