

# Vaccine Storage and Safety at the Health Department

*The Inspector General recently released a report based on a routine assessment of the Vaccines for Children program (VFC). VFC is a federally funded vaccine program managed by CDC that provides free vaccines to an estimated 40 million uninsured and Medicaid eligible children each year. The assessment, conducted in April and May of 2011, included 45 providers from the five largest city and state VFC grantees. The report highlights some areas for improvement and underscores the importance of maintaining a robust public health system. General recommendations include: ensuring vaccine storage and handling in accordance with VFC requirements, enhancing processes for handling expired vaccines, improving management of vaccine inventories, and ensuring oversight requirements. CDC and our partners are working with a sense of urgency to address these issues. CDC is incorporating the report findings and recommendations in its plan to strengthen VFC, a vital component in the United States' successful efforts to protect US residents from vaccine preventable diseases.*

*The Sauk County Health Department has a firm policy on vaccine storage and handling that complies with the CDC standards. Staff check temperature twice daily and the storage refrigerators have 24/7 regulators that alarm and auto-dial an on-call staff member if the temperatures go out of range..*

*To learn more about the CDC investigation, please visit these links.*

[http://newsfeedresearcher.com/data/articles\\_m23\\_2/vaccines-provider-program.html#hdng0](http://newsfeedresearcher.com/data/articles_m23_2/vaccines-provider-program.html#hdng0)

[http://newsfeedresearcher.com/data/articles\\_m23\\_2/vaccines-provider-program.html#hdng1](http://newsfeedresearcher.com/data/articles_m23_2/vaccines-provider-program.html#hdng1)

[http://newsfeedresearcher.com/data/articles\\_m23\\_2/vaccines-provider-program.html#hdng2](http://newsfeedresearcher.com/data/articles_m23_2/vaccines-provider-program.html#hdng2)