When Things Heat Up at Your Health Care Facility

LEARN 8 THINGS YOU NEED TO KNOW

Prepared by

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Temperature and Humidity Monitoring for Health Care

The Situation

The proper care of refrigerated blood, vaccines and special drugs is a critical issue in any health care facility, but manually monitoring hundreds of pieces of equipment spread all across your campus leaves plenty of room for problems. It can take hours, and even days, to document temperature readings in clinics, labs, pediatric wards and storage areas.

Yet efficient monitoring and maintenance is not the only issue. Full documentation of any temperature and/or humidity-related events is required to fulfill the audit requirements of authorities having jurisdiction. Using clipboards and manual entries makes creating comprehensive reports a difficult task at best, especially with many department managers facing reduced staffing or less than optimal budgeting for maintenance.

Potential Problems

Temperature and humidity monitoring failures can result in disastrous consequences. In one situation that made the news, pharmacy employees at a health care facility were relying on an alarm system to safeguard against sudden temperature fluctuations. The system was set to automatically read refrigerator temperatures every two minutes and sound an audible alarm in case of trouble. Unfortunately, the malfunction took place over a holiday weekend when the pharmacy was unmanned—resulting in a $4 million loss!

This was not an isolated situation. Facility managers at small, medium and large health care systems encounter a wide range of temperature and humidity monitoring problems.

How many of the following challenges do you face at your facility?

- Efficiently checking temperatures and humidity levels across a large health care system
- Wasted staff productivity on manual data collection versus high value tasks
- No ability to be automatically notified when and where sensor readings are out of range
- The exposure to liability risks associated with temperatures and humidity
- Staff complaints about temperature or humidity levels
- Lack of resources to deploy and scale a temperature and humidity monitoring system
- Negative impact of a poor public safety record on your facility's brand image
- Lack of necessary tools and resources to properly monitor temperature and humidity levels

Have You Considered a Wi-Fi Temperature and Humidity Monitoring Solution?

Advanced Wi-Fi temperature and humidity monitoring solutions help managers improve health care facility staff productivity, reduce risk and achieve greater regulatory compliance. These solutions use Web-based software that leverages existing IT network infrastructure investments to capture and log sensor readings from anywhere throughout the facility, then store the documentation on a secure, centralized server.

A network Wi-Fi solution can:

1. Efficiently check temperatures and humidity levels across the entire health care system

"Clipboard" technology is fast becoming unaffordable in today's challenging business environment. Manually collecting sensor readings across an entire health care facility is a time-consuming process that distracts support teams from completing more important projects and high value work. Automatic sensor monitoring on a 24/7 basis maximizes the efficiency and accuracy of sensor readings and helps staff stay on top of critical facility conditions.

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2. Free up staff for more high-value tasks

When staff is no longer charged with manually checking sensors, other projects can take priority. Needed maintenance and repairs to monitored equipment can be identified sooner and scheduled on a proactive basis to minimize downtime and potential liability risks. Facility managers and CFOs find that automated solutions quickly pay for themselves when staff productivity is enhanced and liability risks are minimized.

3. Automatically notify facility managers when and where there is an issue with temperature or humidity

When a refrigeration unit goes down, potentially millions of dollars can be lost. Liabilities from the loss of expensive drugs to damaging lawsuits can result in a nightmare scenario that could have been avoided.

Automated temperature and humidity monitoring solutions notify facility staff and pinpoint the exact location of affected areas with email alerts. Facility managers can take immediate action and assign work to employees anywhere, anytime. The Web-based software can be accessed by any computer or mobile device with access to your network on a 24/7 basis.

4. Minimize exposure to liability risks

Poor documentation of key performance data can lead to headlines and lawsuits. A facility manager needs to proactively guard against and automatically document any compliance issues regarding inaccurate temperatures or humidity.

With an automated Wi-Fi solution, all sensor readings are automatically archived in a safe, centralized server. Facility information is easily accessed from a Web-based console where compliance reports are quickly generated to fulfill audit requirements of the various authorities having jurisdiction.

5. Reduce staff complaints about temperature and humidity

Inaccurate temperature or humidity monitoring can start a chain reaction: The pharmacy or food service director writes an email to the COO who copies the CFO and the risk manager. Eventually it ends up on a facility manager's desk. An automated temperature and humidity monitoring solution generates email alerts that instantly notify the appropriate staff member to take action before a small issue can grow into a major concern.

6. Make it easier to deploy and scale your temperature and humidity monitoring system

A Wi-Fi monitoring solution leverages a facility's existing network, eliminating the need to expand the IT infrastructure with costly retrofits. Facility managers can synchronize and monitor devices over existing 802.11 b/g wireless and Ethernet connections. Plus, new monitoring devices can be quickly and easily added in any part of the facility covered by the Wi-Fi network. As a facility expands, the Wi-Fi temperature and humidity monitoring solution scales to accommodate growth.

7. Help you avoid the negative impact of a poor public safety record

A compliance problem that makes the papers can have a negative impact on a facility's image in the community. An automated temperature and humidity monitoring solution helps you ensure critical equipment is working properly, and issues email alerts to warn you when it isn't. Reports and documentation are just a few clicks away, ensuring records are available when needed to show compliance to authorities having jurisdiction.

8. Overcome the lack of resources to properly monitor temperature and humidity levels

Having the right spare parts to keep a health care facility's temperature and humidity equipment up to standard means juggling numerous vendors and distributors. Logistics and storage issues add to the headache. If relevant units and parts are not readily available, the extended time to resolution increases the risk of compliance failure and staff complaints.

With a Web-based console, facility managers have greater insight into the status of each piece of equipment monitored by a sensor, as well as the performance of the monitoring sensor. Using the information, a facility manager can plan repairs, replacements and battery changes proactively. An automated temperature and humidity monitoring solution allows for greater efficiency from existing resources by reducing the time your staff spends on unscheduled service and repair work.

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How Does Your Temperature and Humidity Monitoring System Rate?

Use this quick checklist to review your facility's temperature and humidity monitoring capabilities. It will only take a few minutes to identify how an automated monitoring solution can add value to your department.	YES	NO
1. Automatically sends email alerts when temperature/humidity levels are out of range.	☐	☐
2. Automatically logs temperature and humidity readings in a central Web-based management console for easy compliance reporting.	☐	☐
3. Completely documents corrective actions taken for all non-compliant facility temperature/humidity management issues.	☐	☐
4. Quickly alerts support staff and pinpoints the exact locations of affected areas to clearly communicate when and where readings are out of range.	☐	☐
5. Utilizes existing wireless networks to remotely monitor temperature and/or humidity levels at your facility.	☐	☐
6. Utilizes existing wireless networks to leverage the investment in your existing IT infrastructure.	☐	☐
7. Remotely captures, logs and analyzes temperature/humidity sensor readings even at remote facilities, allowing your staff to focus on more important work.	☐	☐
8. Helps you prepare for safety audits with automatic log capturing and centralized compliance reporting.	☐	☐

If you answered "NO" to any of these capabilities, it is time to explore an automated Wi-Fi temperature and humidity monitoring solution.

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Want to know more?

Primex Wireless SNS Temperature and Humidity Monitoring is an advanced Wi-Fi network solution that improves maintenance efficiencies, reduces your risks and helps achieve and maintain regulatory compliance. The automated solution utilizes the power of your existing 802.11 b/g wireless or Ethernet networks.

If you would like details about a **FREE TRIAL** of our Synchronous Network System (sensor monitoring, time sync, and bells scheduler) or more information about our 72MHz/GPS Wireless (time sync and bell scheduler), please contact your Primex representative at 800-537-0464 (U.S.) or 800-330-1459 (Canada).