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EXERGEN

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Shopping cart: Exergen TemporalScanner Thermometer

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Exergen TemporalScanner Thermometer

What it is: A thermometer with an infrared sensor that you slide across the forehead to find the temperature of your temporal artery, a small blood vessel directly connected to the carotid artery, which runs down the side of the neck to the heart. The blood vessels are very close to the surface of the skin in the middle of the forehead, which is why you feel the forehead with the palm of your hand when checking for a fever. A quick look through the company's Web site indicates that studies at Boston Children's Hospital and Harvard Medical School have shown the scanner to be highly accurate.

Why do we like it? This product is not new, but it deserves attention during cold and flu season. It's fast and noninvasive, so you can take the temperature of a sick child or other loved one without even waking him or her up. Our 14-year-old tester, suffering from high fever, decided the thermometer was fun and made her feel like "items at a grocery store." She then proceeded to check the temperature of her elbow and her knee and the cat's forehead.

Where do you get it? Mass merchandising stores, including Target and Babies 'R Us, and online. Prices vary from \$30-\$50.

