

# Vaccine Storage

## Stand-alone Freezer and Refrigerator-only Units

### 1. Proper Temperatures

 **Freeze MMR, MMRV, and Varicella**

**Aim for 0° F**

**5° F or below**  
(-15° C or below)

 **Don't let temps get too warm!**

 **Refrigerate all other vaccines**

**Aim for 40° F**

 **Don't freeze liquid vaccines!**

**35° F - 46° F**  
(2° C - 8° C or below)

 **Don't let temps get too warm!**

### 2. Proper Set Up

#### Stand-alone freezer

**X No food in freezer!**

**X No vaccine in doors!**  
Fill space with cold packs.

**WARNING! Do Not Unplug**

Fill space with cold packs.

 **Place thermometers in the center** of both the refrigerator and freezer. Post a **temperature log** on each door.

 **Group vaccines by type.** Clearly label the designated space for each vaccine.

 **Keep vaccine spaced 2-3 inches away from walls and other boxes.**

 **Post "Do Not Unplug" warning signs** on electrical outlets and circuit breakers. Plug in only one unit per outlet.

#### Refrigerator-only unit

**X No vaccine in doors!**  
Fill space with water bottles.

**X No food in refrigerator!**

**X No vaccine in drawers or on floor of refrigerator!**  
Fill space with water bottles.

**WARNING! Do Not Unplug**

### 3. Proper Management

#### Monitor temperatures!

- Use only **certified thermometers** in accordance with National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST). If your thermometer uses batteries, replace them every 6 months.
- Check and record refrigerator and freezer temperatures twice a day, first thing in the morning and last thing at the close of business. VFC temperature logs must be kept for a period of 3 years. **If the temperature is out of range, immediately contact the VFC Program.**
- Make sure that the door is shut.

#### Maintain and rotate stock!

- Rotate vaccine stock by placing shorter expiration dates in front. Call VFC if you have any vaccine that will expire within 3 months.
- **Keep vaccines in original packaging until it is time to use it.**
- **Keep VFC vaccines separate from privately purchased vaccines.**
- Have an emergency plan for extended power outages and freezer or refrigerator malfunctions.
- Designate one fully trained staff member to be the primary vaccine coordinator and at least one person to be back-up. Ensure ongoing training.

#### Call VFC about any problems!

If you have any problems with your refrigerator or freezer:

- Keep the refrigerator and freezer doors shut
- Notify the VFC Program

**Vaccines for Children Program** (877) 243-8832

**VFC Field Representative**

