

Vaccine Storage Guide

Combination Refrigerator/Freezer Units

1. Proper Temperatures

 Freeze MMR, MMRV, and Varicella.

Aim for 0° F



 Refrigerate all other vaccines.

Aim for 40° F



2. Proper Set Up

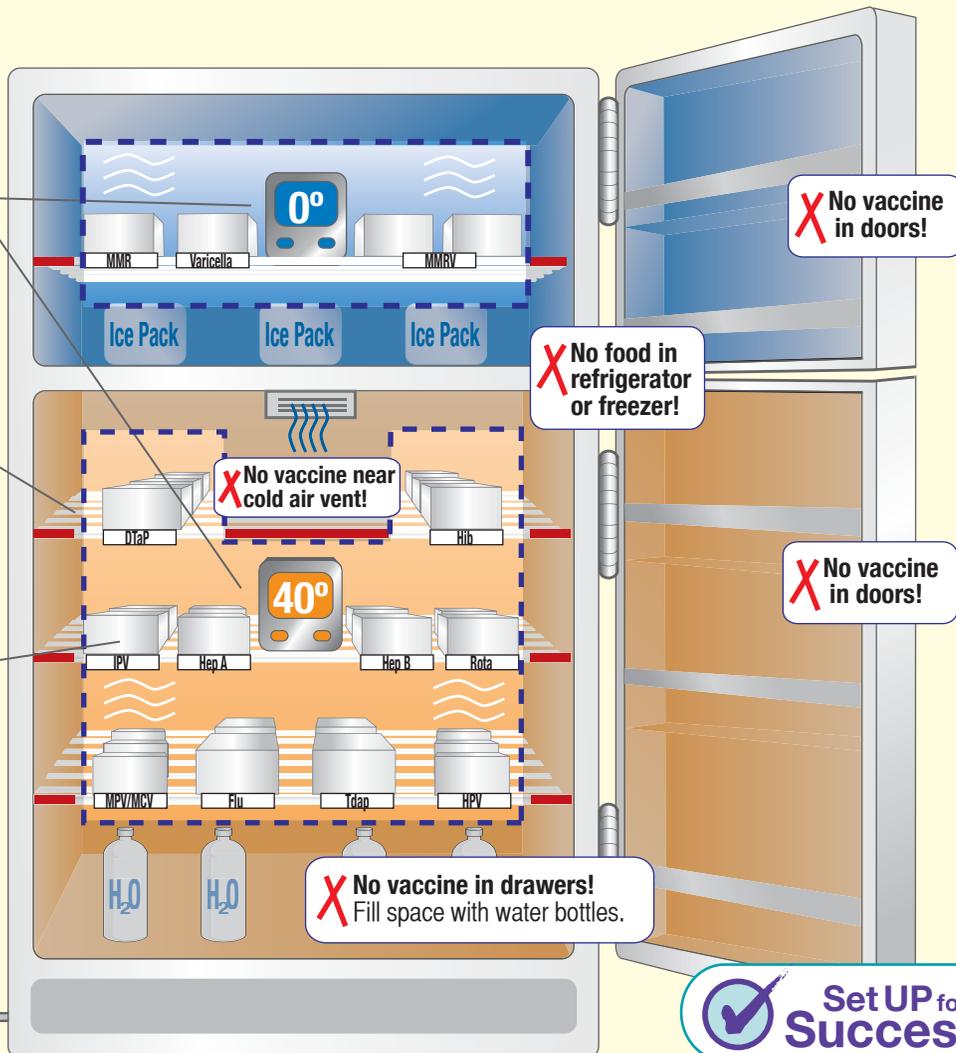
 Place thermometers in the center of both the refrigerator and freezer. Post a temperature log on the door.

 Keep vaccine spaced 2-3 inches away from walls, floor, and other boxes. Dashed lines show usable space. Mark unusable space.

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

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

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.

Monitor capacity—especially during flu season!

- Combination units are acceptable for the storage of minimal quantities of vaccine as long as vaccines are always stored properly within usable space. **New VFC providers and providers receiving more than 2,000 doses of vaccine annually may not use combination units.** Check with your VFC representative for specific criteria.
- Inventory vaccine and ensure that there is enough space in refrigerator and freezer before ordering.

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

