

Vaccine Refrigerator Setup

Storing Vaccines

Carefully organizing vaccines in a refrigerator helps protect vaccine and facilitates vaccine inventory management. Refrigerate all vaccines except MMRV, Varicella, and Zoster (store these in the freezer).

Refrigerator in a Combination Unit

Usable space is limited (inside dashed lines).

The diagram shows a refrigerator with shelves and drawers. A dashed box indicates the usable space. Various vaccine boxes are shown on shelves, including DTap, IPV, VFC Vaccine, PCV, Rota, Hep A, Hep B, MCV/MCVI, Tdap, HPV, and Flu. A temperature gauge shows 40°F. Callouts provide instructions on how to store vaccines correctly and what to avoid.

- ✓ Place vaccine in breathable plastic mesh baskets and clearly label baskets by type of vaccine.
- ✓ Group vaccines by pediatric, adolescent, and adult types.
- ✓ Separate the VFC vaccine supply from privately purchased vaccine.
- ✓ Keep baskets 2-3 inches from walls and other baskets.
- ✓ Keep vaccines in their original boxes until you are ready to use them.
- ✓ Store only vaccine and other medication in vaccine storage units.
- ✓ Keep vaccines with shorter expiration dates to front of shelf.
If you have vaccine that will expire in 3 months or less that you will not be able to use, notify the VFC Program.
- ✓ Keep temperatures between 35°F to 46°F.
Aim for 40°F.
Below 35°F is too cold! Call VFC.
Above 46°F is too warm! Call VFC.

✗ Keep vaccine away from all cold air vents. The vents blow in very cold air from the freezer which can damage vaccines.

✗ No food in refrigerator.

✗ No vaccine in doors.

✗ No vaccine in solid plastic trays or containers.

✗ No vaccine in drawers or on floor of refrigerator.

If you have any problems with your refrigerator, keep the refrigerator door shut and notify your state's VFC Program.

• VFC Program Office _____

• VFC Field Representative _____

Adapted with permission from the California Department of Public Health, Immunization Branch.

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You'll find other practical vaccine storage and handling resources at www.eziz.org/resources/materials_storageandhand.html