Vaccine Storage Quick Reference

REMEMBER: Improperly stored or outdated vaccines won't protect your patients!

- This reference includes vaccines approved or authorized in the United States. It does not include travel vaccines. For additional details, refer to vaccine package inserts (www.immunize.org/official-guidance/fda/pkg-inserts).
- If you have a concern about the condition of any vaccine upon arrival or while it is in storage, **take action!** Follow the steps on Immunize.org's "Vaccine Storage Emergency Response Worksheet" and document the situation on the "Vaccine Storage Troubleshooting Record" (see *Additional Resources* #1 and #2).

STORE VACCINES AT APPROPRIATE TEMPERATURES

Refrigerator (most vaccines)

Maintain between 2°C and 8°C (36°F and 46°F) ***Aim for 5°C (41°F)***

- Any combination vaccine containing only refrigerated components listed below
- COVID-19 2026–2027 formulations:
  - Comirnaty manufacturer-filled syringes (age 12+ yrs)
  - mNexspike
  - Nuvaxovid
- DTaP, Tdap, Td (all)
- Hepatitis A (all)
- Hepatitis B (all)
- *H. influenzae* type b (Hib, all)
- Human papillomavirus (HPV)
- Influenza (all)
- MMR (MMR II, Priorix)*
- Meningococcal (all)
- Mpox (Jynneos, 2-vial lyophilized only)
- Pneumococcal (all)
- Polio (IPV)
- Rabies (all)
- RSV (Arexvy, Abrysvo)
- RSV preventive antibody (Beyfortus, Enflonsia)
- Rotavirus (all)
- Zoster/Shingles (Shingrix)

Vaccine diluents: All may be stored in the refrigerator; certain diluents may be stored at room temperature (see *Additional Resources* #3).

* MMR: MMR II (Merck) may be stored until expiration in a freezer or refrigerator. Store Priorix (GSK) only in the refrigerator

Freezer

Maintain between -50°C and -15°C (-58°F and 5°F)

- COVID-19 2026–2027 Spikevax (Moderna), refrigerate after thawing (see "Special Cases" below)
- MMR (MMR II only)*
- MMRV
- Varicella

Maintain between -25°C and -15°C (-13°F and 5°F)

- Mpox (Jynneos 1-vial presentation only, see "Special Cases" below)

Maintain between -40°C and -15°C (-40°F and 5°F)

- RSV (mResvia only), see "Special Cases" below)

Vaccine diluents: Do not freeze.

Ultra-Cold Freezer

Maintain between -90°C and -60°C (-130°F and -76°F)

- COVID-19 2026–2027: Comirnaty single-dose vials (age 5 through 11 years) if received frozen on dry ice, or refrigerate (see "Special Cases" below)

Special Cases

Certain vaccines may be frozen until their expiration date *or* may be stored in a refrigerator for several weeks before use. Once thawed, DO NOT REFREEZE.

Refrigeration time (use within allowable time or until expiration, whichever is first):

- COVID-19 2026–2027 formulations:
  - Comirnaty single-dose vials: up to 10 weeks in refrigerator
  - Spikevax: up to 60 days in refrigerator
- Mpox (Jynneos 1-vial presentation only) — up to 4 weeks in refrigerator
- RSV (mResvia) up to 90 days in refrigerator

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Immunize.org:

1. "Vaccine Storage Emergency Response Worksheet" – guidance for vaccines exposed to improper storage conditions, such as a power failure (www.immunize.org/catg.d/p3051.pdf)
2. "Vaccine Storage Troubleshooting Record" – form to document an improper vaccine storage incident and actions taken to resolve it (www.immunize.org/catg.d/p3041.pdf)
3. "Vaccines with Diluents: How to Use Them" (www.immunize.org/catg.d/p3040.pdf)
4. Warning Sign: "Do Not Unplug Refrigerator or Freezer" (www.immunize.org/catg.d/p2090.pdf)
5. Warning Sign: "Do Not Turn Off Circuit Breaker" (www.immunize.org/catg.d/p2091.pdf)

CDC:

6. "Vaccine Storage and Handling Toolkit" (www.cdc.gov/vaccines/hcp/storage-handling)