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**

- 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.
- Keep temperatures between 35°F to 46°F.

**Usable space is limited (inside dashed lines).**

- 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.
- Keep vaccines in breathable plastic mesh baskets and clearly label baskets by type of vaccine.
- 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.
- Keep temperatures between 35°F to 46°F.

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