

Storing COVID-19 Vaccines in a Stand-Alone Refrigerator Unit

Carefully organize vaccines in a refrigerator to help protect them and facilitate inventory management. Refer to the **CDC U.S. COVID-19 Vaccine Product Information** webpage for updates on COVID-19 vaccine storage and handling.

Usable space is limited to inside the dashed lines.

✓ Keep vaccines in original boxes, then in breathable plastic mesh baskets. Clearly label baskets by type of vaccine.

✓ Monitor length of time of vaccine in the freezer using CDC's beyond-use date (BUD) labels.

✓ Monitor vaccines using a digital data logger thermometer.

✓ Separate vaccine supply by vaccine type, age range and/or basket color.

✓ Keep baskets two to three inches from walls and other baskets.

✓ Protect vaccines from light.

✓ Store only vaccines and other medications in vaccine storage units.

✓ Place thawed vaccines in refrigerator.

✓ Place vaccines with shorter expiration dates toward front of shelf.
All expired vaccines should be reported to the returns/wastage section of the CIR.

✓ Use CDC's Beyond Use Date (BUD) Tracking labels for each vaccine: **Pfizer-BioNTech, Moderna and Johnson & Johnson/Janssen.**

✓ Keep temperatures between 36°F and 46°F (2°C to 8°C).
Aim for 40°F/5°C.
Below 36°F/2°C is too cold! Above 46°F/8°C is too warm!

✗ Keep vaccines away from all cold air vents. Do not store vaccines on top shelf.

✗ Do not refreeze thawed vaccines.

✗ No vaccines in doors.

✗ No vaccine in solid plastic trays or containers.

✗ No food or drinks in refrigerator.

✗ No medications or biologics on shelves above vaccines.

✗ No vaccine in drawers or on floor of refrigerator.

✗ No clutter or overcrowding of vaccines.

If you have any issues with your refrigerator, freezer or vaccines, notify the NYC Health Department at nycimmunize@health.nyc.gov or 347-396-2404.