

## Storing Vaccines in a Pharmaceutical-Grade Refrigerator and Freezer Unit

Carefully organize vaccines in a refrigerator and freezer to help protect them and facilitate inventory management. Refrigerate all vaccines except varicella; zoster; and measles, mumps, rubella and varicella (MMRV), which should be frozen. Measles, mumps and rubella (MMR) may be refrigerated or frozen.

**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.

✓ Separate VFC vaccine supply from privately purchased vaccines.

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

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

✓ Keep freezer temperatures between -58°F and 5°F (-50°C and -15°C).

**Aim for 0°F/-18°C and below.**

Colder is better. Below -58°F/-50°C is too cold! Call VFC.

Above 5°F/-15°C is too warm! Call VFC.

✓ Place vaccines with shorter expiration dates toward front of shelf.

If you have vaccines that will expire within six months **and will remain unused**, notify the NYC VFC program.

✗ Keep vaccines away from all cold air vents.

✗ No food or drinks in refrigerator.

✗ No vaccines in doors.

✗ No vaccines in solid plastic trays or containers.

✗ No medications or biologics on shelves above vaccines.

✓ Keep refrigerator temperatures between 36°F to 46°F (2°C to 8°C).

**Aim for 40° F/5°C.**



Below 36°F/2°C is too cold! Call VFC.



Above 46°F/8°C is too warm! Call VFC.

If you have any problems with your refrigerator, freezer or VFC vaccines, please notify the NYC VFC program at 347-396-2404.