

Refrigerator Setup for Vaccine Storage

Store MMR, MMRV, and Varicella in the freezer. Keep your refrigerator organized to protect vaccines and make vaccine inventory easier to manage.

Refrigerator-only Unit

Usable space for vaccine is inside dashed lines.

The diagram shows a refrigerator with shelves and a door. Vaccines are organized into two sections: Pediatric and Adult. Pediatric vaccines include DTaP, Hep B, Hib, IPV, PCV, Rota, and Hep A. Adult vaccines include MCV, Tdap, HPV, and Flu. Water bottles are used as buffers. The door contains water bottles. A freezer drawer is at the bottom. Callouts provide instructions and warnings.

- Use buffers such as water bottles to stabilize refrigerator temperatures.
- Group and label vaccines by pediatric, adolescent, and adult types.
- Place vaccine boxes in breathable plastic mesh baskets or directly on shelves.
- Always keep vaccines in original boxes. Do not open the box until you are ready to use vaccines.
- Keep baskets 2-3 inches from walls and other baskets.
- Store only vaccines in vaccine storage units. If storage of medications is necessary, store below vaccines.
- Store vaccines with the earliest expiration dates to the front of the shelf.
 - If you have vaccines that will expire within 6 months that you will not be able to use, notify your IHS.
- Keep temperatures in OK range.
 - Temperature range: 36.0°F (2.0°C) to 46.0°F (8.0°C).
 - OK range is between 36.0°F and 46.0°F.

Warnings (indicated by a red X):

- Do not block air vents.
- No vaccines in solid plastic trays or containers.
- No vaccines in doors.
- No food in refrigerator.
- No vaccines in drawers or on floor of refrigerator.

If you have any problems with your refrigerator, keep the refrigerator door shut and follow the guidance on the following website: www.health.mil/vaccinecompromise.

Immunization Healthcare Specialist (IHS):