

# Vaccine Storage & Handling



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Improperly stored vaccine =  
improperly vaccinated children!

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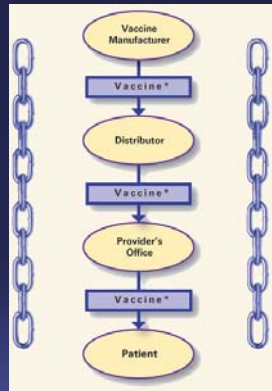
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What is  
the cold  
chain?



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### Basic Storage Unit Requirements

- Maintain proper temperatures at all times
  - Refrigerator: 36 ° 46 °F, 2 ° 8 °C
  - Freezer: +5 °F or below, - 15 °C or below
- Ability to accommodate largest inventory of the year
- Biomedical/scientific units are preferred for practices ordering more than 6,000 doses of vaccine per year
- Refrigerator units less than 16.7 cubic feet are not allowed unless they are scientific/biomedical

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### Basic Storage Unit Requirements (cont'd)

- Refrigerator/freezer units are accepted for providers that:
  - Enrolled & approved before April 2009
  - Separate controls for each area storing vaccine & separate exterior doors
- CDC recommends only using refrigerator compartment of a combination unit
  - Separate exterior doors
  - Separate thermostat controls

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### Basic Storage Unit Requirements (cont'd)

- Refrigerators
  - New providers (after April 2009) will be required to have freezerless units
  - Existing providers are required to obtain freezerless units when replacing current units
- Freezers
  - Manual defrost or frost-free
  - Chest or upright, chest preferred

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## Setting up storage unit

- Allow for air flow/proper spacing between walls & other vaccines
- Group vaccines by type & label designated space
- Place thermometer in middle of unit
- Do not store vaccines in doors or drawers
- Fill refrigerator door & drawer space with water bottles
- Fill freezer door & drawer space with ice packs
- Do not store food in unit

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## Setting up storage unit (cont)

- Keep public vaccine (VFC, 317, CHIP) separate from private purchase vaccine
- Rotate stock. Keep short dated vaccine in front
- If vaccine will expire in 90 days, contact liaison for approval to transfer
- Keep vaccine in original packaging until use

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## Thermometers

- Current certified, calibrated data logger for all areas storing vaccine, even temporary storage
- Glycol-encased probe in bottle
- Have an extra for backup &/or transport
- Keep track of expiration date on certificates & fax certificates to VFC



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## Monitoring Temperatures

- Read & record twice a day (am & pm)
  
- Colder is NOT better in the refrigerator
  - Keep temps at 40°F/4°C
  - Most refrigerated vaccine is destroyed by freezing
  
- Keep a log for any temporary storage
  
- Keep all temperature logs for at least 3 years
  
- Temps out of range? Take action & document!

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## Out of Range Temperatures

- Label the vaccine DO NOT USE until you follow these steps
  - Quarantine potentially compromised vaccine
  - Recheck the temperature
  - Check the thermometer
  - Call your VFC liaison
  - Contact the vaccine manufacturers regarding viability
  - Complete Emergency Response Worksheet
    - Include wastage form, if wastage occurs

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## Plug Warning

- Use WARNING stickers
  
- Mark the unit & the plug
  
- Secure the plug (if exposed)
  
- DO NOT USE POWER STRIPS THAT CAN BE TURNED OFF!**



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## Where is YOUR breaker box?



- Mark the breaker box
- Identify the breaker
- Provide a name & phone number for emergency contact
- Check to make sure sticker has not been removed

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