

# VACCINE STORAGE AND HANDLING



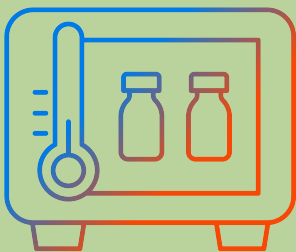
## Manage Vaccine Inventory

Inventory your on-hand vaccines at least monthly and before placing an order. Always use the vaccine with the earliest expiration date first. These actions will help reduce vaccine waste. Never use expired vaccines.



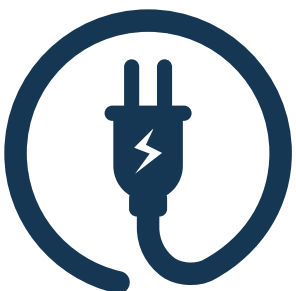
## Store Vaccines Appropriately

Based on the manufacturer's insert, place vaccines in refrigerator, freezer or ultra-cold unit immediately upon receiving shipment. Keep vaccine vials in their original packaging. Place vaccines in clearly labeled baskets or other containers with 2-3" separation between baskets and the storage unit wall. Separate or clearly mark vaccines to distinguish those supplied from your state's Vaccines for Children program (or other state-funded source) from those privately purchased. Do not store vaccines in the door or on the unit floor.



## Stabilize Temperatures

Store ice packs in the freezer and large jugs of water in the refrigerator along with the vaccines. This will help maintain a stable, cold temperature in case of a power failure or if the unit doors are opened frequently or accidentally left open. Because frequent opening of the refrigerator or freezer doors can lead to temperature variations that could affect vaccine efficacy, you should not store food or beverages in the refrigerator or freezer.



## Safeguard storage unit electrical supply

Make sure vaccine storage units are plugged into outlets in a protected area where they cannot be disconnected accidentally. Label the refrigerator, freezer, ultra-cold unit, electrical outlets, and circuit breakers on the power circuit with information that clearly identifies the perishable nature of vaccines and the immediate steps to be taken in case of a power interruption. If your building has auxiliary power, use the outlet supplied by that system.

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Always refer to the package insert for specifics on storage of each vaccine.



## REFRIGERATOR RANGES

Between 2°C and 8° C  
OR 36°F and 46° F

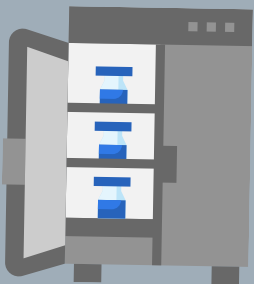
Aim for  
40°F  
(4° C)

## Refrigerator

COVID-19\*, DTaP, Tdap, Td, Hepatitis A, Hepatitis B, *H. influenzae* type b(Hib,) Human papillomavirus, Influenza, MMR\*\*, Meningococcal, ACWY, Meningococcal B, Pneumococcal (PCV and PPSV23), Polio (IPV), Rotavirus, RSV (Beyfortus), Shingrix (Zoster)

\*COVID-19 storage differs by manufacturer, refer to insert

\*\*MMR may be stored in either the freezer or refrigerator



## FREEZER RANGES

Between -50°C and -15° C  
OR -58°F and +5° F

Aim for  
-13°F  
(-25° C)

## Freezer

COVID-19\*, MMR\*\*, MMRV, Varicella

\*COVID-19 storage differs by manufacturer, refer to insert

\*\*MMR may be stored in either the freezer or refrigerator



## ULT RANGES

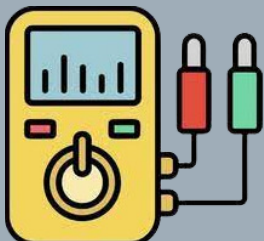
Between -90°C and -60°C  
OR -130°F and -76° F

Aim for  
-103°F  
(-75° C)

## Ultra-Low Temperature (ULT) Freezer

COVID-19\*

\*COVID-19 storage differs by manufacturer, refer to insert



Take action for any  
out of range  
temperatures.  
Contact  
vfc@doh.nj.gov

## Monitor temperatures daily

Keep a digital data logger (DDL) with your vaccines at all times. Set the alarm on your unit. Download the data from the DDL at least once a week and whenever there is an out-of-range temperature or alarm. Check and record MIN/MAX temperatures at the start of the work day. Press the reset/clear button after recording the MIN/MAX temperatures. Have at least one back-up DDL with matching probes.