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 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.

- **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.**

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