Storing Vaccines in a Stand-Alone Refrigerator Unit

Carefully organize vaccines in a refrigerator 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.
- Group vaccines by pediatric, adolescent and adult types.
- 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.

- Do not store vaccines on top shelf.
- Keep temperatures between 36°F to 46°F (2°C to 8°C).
- Aim for 40°F/5°C.
- 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 any cold air vents.
- No vaccines in doors.
- No vaccines in solid plastic trays or containers.
- No food or drinks in refrigerator.
- No medications or biologics on shelves above vaccines.
- No vaccines in drawers or on floor of refrigerator.

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