

VACCINE STORAGE UNIT CHECKLIST

NYC DOHMH VACCINES FOR CHILDREN PROGRAM

VFC Providers must have appropriate equipment that can store vaccine and maintain proper conditions. If a provider does not have the appropriate storage units, the Provider Quality Assurance (PQA) Unit will work with providers to obtain storage units that are acceptable.

Refrigerators or freezers used for vaccine storage **must** comply with the following requirements:

- Be able to maintain required vaccine storage temperatures year-round;
- Be large enough to hold the year's largest inventory;
- Have a working thermometer certified in accordance with National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) or the American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM) standards placed in a central area inside each storage compartment;
- Be dedicated to the storage of vaccines. (Food and beverages must not be stored in a vaccine storage unit because this practice results in frequent opening of the door and destabilization of the temperature).

BEST PRACTICE

- Stand-Alone Refrigerator and Stand- Alone Freezer Units
(self-contained unit that only refrigerates or freezes and is suitable for vaccine storage)
- Pharmaceutical Grade
- Frost-Free or Automatic Defrost Cycle Units
(Because freezing of refrigerated vaccines affects vaccine potency, it is especially important that refrigerators be selected and maintained to eliminate the risk of freezing vaccine)

ACCEPTABLE PRACTICE

- Using only the Refrigerator compartment of a Combined Household Refrigerator and Freezer unit to store refrigerated vaccine and a separate stand-alone freezer to store frozen vaccines
- Combined Household Unit with separate Refrigerator and Freezer compartments, separate exterior doors, and separate thermostats
(Using only the refrigerator component and a separate stand-alone freezer is preferred)
- Combined Household Unit with separate Refrigerator and Freezer compartments, separate exterior doors, and single thermostat
(Having a separate thermostat for the refrigerator and freezer compartments is preferred)

UNACCEPTABLE PRACTICE

- Dormitory style refrigerator/freezer units and single door refrigerator/freezer units are NOT acceptable for the permanent storage of vaccines. Any frozen vaccine (e.g. varicella-containing vaccines) should NEVER be stored in these types of storage units
- Storage units with freezer panels
- Storage units with multiple vents