



YOU MAY NEED A NEW VACCINE STORAGE UNIT

DID YOU KNOW

An average provider stores tens of thousands of dollars worth of vaccines.

Vaccines must be stored properly from the time they are manufactured until the time they are administered. Excess heat or cold will reduce their potency, increasing the risk that recipients will not be protected against vaccine-preventable diseases.

Vaccine storage units must be selected carefully and used properly. Refrigerators without freezers and stand-alone freezers may be better at maintaining the required temperatures.

Doses Per Year	Recommended Equipment
10,000 doses	Pharmacy-grade or biologic grade refrigerator-only unit and stand-alone freezer unit
2,000-10,000 doses	Refrigerator-only (11 cubic feet minimum) and stand-alone freezer unit
500-2,000 doses	Refrigerator-only (11 cubic feet minimum) and stand-alone freezer unit
Less than 500 doses	OR Pharmacy-grade or biologic-grade under the counter unit

Important Refrigerator and Freezer Considerations

All refrigerator units should:

- Maintain required vaccine storage temperatures of 35-46° F (2-8° C)
- Be automatic defrost (frost-free) and free of any frost, ice, water or coolant leaks
- Provide enough space to store the largest number of doses expected at one time (including influenza season), allowing for vaccine storage at least 2-3 inches away from the walls, floor and other boxes, and away from cold air vents
- Be reliable and not need frequent repairs. Replacement should be considered for refrigerator/freezer combination units over 10 years old
- Have doors that seal tightly and properly
- Have separate temperature controls for refrigerator and freezer combination units
- Not have convertible features that switch to an all-freezer unit
- Have a certified, calibrated thermometer placed centrally in the unit
- Be used only for vaccine storage

All freezer units should:

- Maintain required vaccine storage temperatures of **5° F (-15° C) to -58° (-50° C)**
- Provide enough space to store vaccines along with sufficient frozen cold packs
- Have an automatic defroster

