CDC Vaccine Storage Recommendations

What kind of refrigeration should I use?

**Commercial/Household Refrigerators**
- Stand-alone
- Combination

**Pharmaceutical/Purpose Built Refrigerators**
- Under-Counter
- Full-sized

Dual-zone combination units are acceptable for storage of refrigerated vaccines only—do not use the freezer for vaccine storage.
CDC Recommends:

**Stand-Alone**

*Recommended by the CDC

- Can maintain appropriate storage temperatures without fluctuation during the clinic day

- Amount of vaccine and packing style do not appear to have a major impact on ability of the unit to maintain the vaccine temperature

**Pharmaceutical Grade**

- Can maintain appropriate storage temperatures without fluctuation

- Temperatures remained stable during defrost cycles

- Amount of vaccine, packing style, and door opening have negligible effect on capability to maintain temperature

Combination Household Units

Acceptable alternative for refrigerated vaccines, only:

- Can maintain refrigerated temperatures, but freezer may not maintain appropriate temperatures for frozen vaccine storage

  - Even with freezer control set to “coldest” vaccines stored inside freezer section can experience temperature excursions above 5°F (-15°C) especially during defrost cycles

- Separate stand-alone freezer should be used for frozen vaccines

  - Freezer can accurately maintain required frozen vaccine temperatures without fluctuations

*VFC Storage Requirement - VFC vaccines must not be stored dormitory style refrigerators/freezers at any time*

Revised 02/10/2015