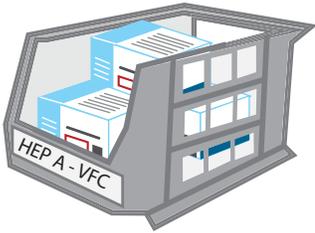


# Vaccine Storage Best Practices for Refrigerated Vaccines—Fahrenheit (F)

## 1 Unpack vaccines immediately



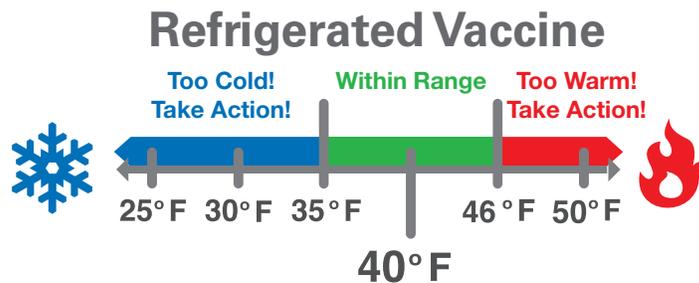
1. Place the vaccines in trays or uncovered containers for proper air flow.
2. Put vaccines that are first to expire in front.
3. Keep vaccines in original boxes with lid closed to prevent light exposure.
4. Separate and label by vaccine type and VFC/Public or private vaccine.

## 2 Store vaccine at ideal temperature: 40°F



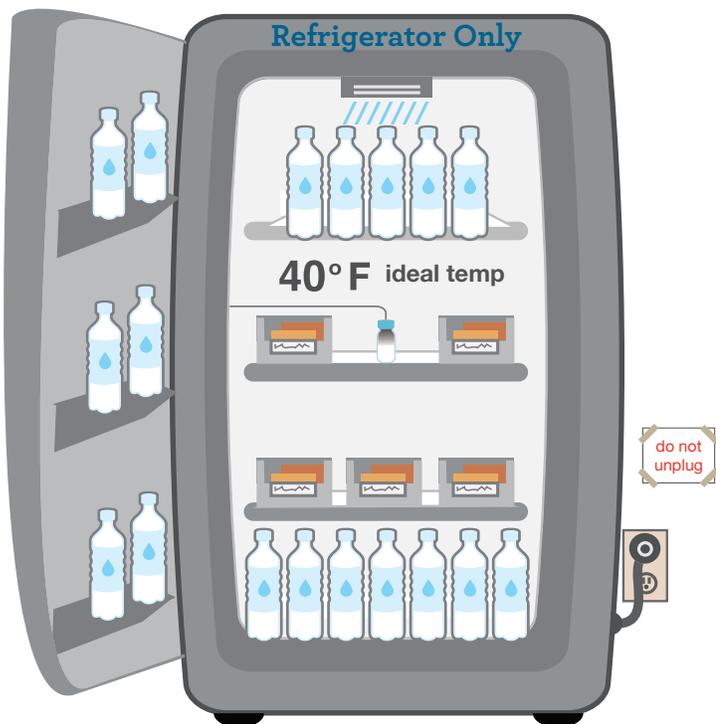
**Never freeze refrigerated vaccine!**

Exception: MMR can be stored in fridge or freezer



**Report out of range temperatures immediately!**

## 3 Use vaccine storage best practices



### DO

- ✓ Do make sure the refrigerator door is shut!
- ✓ Do replace crisper bins with water bottles to help maintain consistent temperature.
- ✓ Do label water bottles "Do Not Drink."
- ✓ Do leave 2-3 inches between all vaccines containers and refrigerator walls.
- ✓ Do post "Do Not Unplug" signs on refrigerator and by electrical outlet.

### DON'T

- ✗ Don't use dormitory-style refrigerator.
- ✗ Don't use top shelf for vaccine storage.
- ✗ Don't put food or beverages in refrigerator.
- ✗ Don't put vaccines or diluent in doors or floor of refrigerator.
- ✗ Don't drink or remove water bottles.



U.S. Department of Health and Human Services  
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

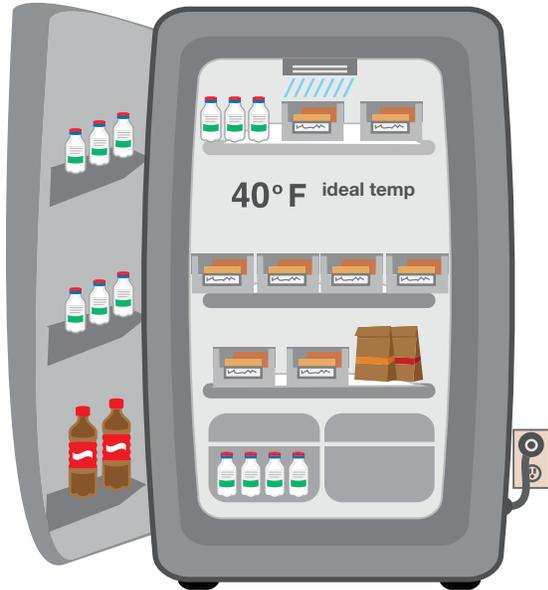
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Visit [www.cdc.gov/vaccines/SandH](http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/SandH) for more information, or your state health department.

# Test Your Knowledge

1 Can you find at least 8 things that are wrong with vaccine storage in this refrigerator?



2 When unpacking vaccine it is important to put the first to expire in the front

- A. It reduces the risk that an expired vaccine will be given
- B. It saves money by reducing wastage
- C. It reduces time spent on returns
- D. All of the above
- E. None of the above—it's really about organization

3 It is okay to use the water bottles as long as you replace them. True / False

4 One of the most common reasons refrigerators are out of temperature range is:

- A. Power outages
- B. Thermometer is broken
- C. Staff doesn't shut the refrigerator door
- D. The refrigerator thermostat is not working properly

5 Refrigerated vaccines should be stored between \_\_\_\_\_°F and \_\_\_\_\_°F. But the ideal temperature is \_\_\_\_\_°F

1. There are 10 things wrong: Vaccines are too close to the vent, there is no "do not unplug" sign, there is no thermometer, vaccines not in bins, bins on the top shelf, food and beverages in the refrigerator, some bins stored too closely together and too close to the unit walls, crisper bins not replaced with water bottles, vaccine stored in crisper bins and door shelves, no water bottles in the door shelves.
2. D - There are many important reasons to ensure the first to expire vaccines are stored in the front!
3. False - water bottles are intended to help maintain proper temperature. If you keep replacing them it takes time for them to get to the right temperature and then they are not doing their job.
4. C - believe it or not, staff not shutting the refrigerator door is one of the most common reasons a refrigerator is out of temperature range!
5. Refrigerated vaccines should be stored between 35°F and 46°F. But the ideal temperature is 40°F.