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 range: -58°F to 5°F**

   - **Frozen Vaccine**
     - Too Cold! Take Action!
     - Within Range
     - Too Warm! Take Action!
     - Report out of range temperatures immediately!

3. **Use vaccine storage best practices**

   - **Freezer Only**
     - **DO**
       - ✅ Do make sure the freezer door is shut!
       - ✅ Do use ice packs to help maintain consistent temperature
       - ✅ Do leave 2 to 3 inches between all vaccines and freezer walls
       - ✅ Do post “Do Not Unplug” signs on freezer and by electrical outlet
     - **DON’T**
       - ☠️ Don’t use dormitory-style refrigerator/freezer
       - ☠️ Don’t use combo fridge/freezer unit
       - ☠️ Don’t put food in freezer
       - ☠️ Don’t store vaccines in doors

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

Review the below temperature readings and select the correct answer.

Which of the following unit is the best for storing frozen vaccine?

1. **Freezer**
   - A. Full Size Refrigerator/Freezer (1 outside door/freezer is part of refrigerator)
   - B. Full Size Refrigerator/Freezer (2 outside doors, separate compartments)
   - C. “Stand alone” freezer only unit
   - D. “Dormitory” style or mini refrigerator (1 outside door/freezer is part of refrigerator)

2. Circle the TRUE statements
   - A. It is okay to remove vaccine from the original boxes as long as they are stored in the freezer.
   - B. Ice packs in the freezer are important to help maintain consistent temperature.
   - C. You can “eye test” frozen vaccines - if they look frozen they are okay.
   - D. Leave 2 - 3 Inches between all vaccines and freezer walls.

3. Circle the vaccines that MUST be stored in the freezer:
   - A. Varicella vaccine
   - B. MMR vaccine
   - C. Zoster vaccine
   - D. HPV vaccine

4. One of the most common reasons freezers are out of temperature range is:
   - A. Staff doesn’t shut the freezer door
   - B. Power outages
   - C. The freezer thermostat is not working properly
   - D. Thermometer is broken

5. Frozen vaccines should be stored between ____°F and ____°F.

5. Frozen vaccines should be stored between -58°F and 5°F.

4. A belief is that staff not shutting the freezer door is one of the most common reasons a freezer is out of temperature range.

3. A (Varicella) and C (Zoster) vaccines must be stored in the refrigerator. B (MMR) can be stored in the refrigerator or freezer. D (HPV) must be stored in the refrigerator.

2. B and D are true statements. All vaccines should stay in their original boxes. Proper temperature monitoring is very important and cannot be done by eye.

1. C is the best way to store frozen vaccines. NO vaccines - refrigerated OR frozen should ever be stored in D (a dormitory style unit).