

Vaccine Storage Equipment

To reduce waste and spoilage of expensive vaccines, the following guidelines have been set forth for vaccine storage units.

Providers must have appropriate equipment that can store vaccine and maintain proper conditions. The minimum requirements for types of storage units are:

1. A refrigerator that has a separate freezer compartment with a separate exterior door, or
2. Stand-alone refrigerators and freezers. **Dormitory style refrigerator/freezer units and single door refrigerator/freezer units are NOT acceptable for storing vaccines at any time.** 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.).

Storage Unit Size Specifications

Office Size	Recommended Equipment
Very High Volume 10,000 doses/year	Pharmacy-grade or biologic-grade refrigerator-only units and stand-alone freezer units
High Volume 2,000-10,000 doses/year	Refrigerator-only (16.7 cubic feet minimum) and stand-alone freezer units
Medium Volume 500-2,000 doses/year	Refrigerator-only (16.7 cubic feet minimum) and stand-alone freezer units
Low Volume Less than 500 doses/year	OR Pharmacy-grade or biologic-grade under the counter units.